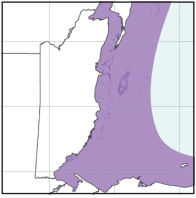


CONTENTS

Preface and Acknowledgments	6
How to Use This Book	7
Area and Species Covered	7
Format	7
Plates	7
Family and Genus Accounts	7
Species Accounts	7
Range Maps	9
Abbreviations and Some Terms Explained	11
Bird Topography	12
Biogeography	14
Geography	14
Climate and Habitat	14
Taxonomy and Names	24
Taxonomy and Species	24
Species Accounts	25
Appendices	288
Appendix A: Rare Migrants and Vagrants	288
Appendix B: Taxonomic Notes	290
References	297
Index of English Names	298



LAUGHING GULL *Leucophaeus atricilla* 38–43cm. Commonest gull in Belize, mainly coastal. Medium-size, long-winged 3-year gull with dark bill and legs. Found on beaches, at river mouths, coastal lagoons, dumps, over inshore waters; rarely inland. Locally in flocks of 100s, often with terns, other gulls. Fairly distinctive, but cf. Franklin's Gull. Note long wings, relatively heavy, often slightly droop-tipped bill. Nonbr./imm. has distinctive smudged dusky mask through eyes. Juv. dark brown overall with scaly pale edgings above; soon attains gray back, whiter head and underparts. 2nd-year like dull adult with more black in wing-tip, sometimes black in tail. **SOUNDS:** Varied, nasal laughing and yelping cries. **STATUS:** Common to fairly common on coast and cayes, more local in summer (uncommon and very local breeder on some s. cayes); rare and sporadic wanderer inland. (Breeds N America to Caribbean, winters to S America.)



FRANKLIN'S GULL *Leucophaeus pipixcan* 35–38cm. Scarce transient, mainly coastal. Medium-small 3-year gull with dark bill and legs. Singles or rarely flocks, usually associating with Laughing Gulls on beaches, at river mouths, coastal lagoons, over inshore waters; also possible high overhead inland during spring migration. Slightly smaller than Laughing Gull, with smaller bill, more rounded wing-tips, thicker white eye-arcs; spring adults often have strong pink blush to underparts (Laughing can have pale blush). Adult wing-tip boldly patterned black-and-white, unlike Laughing, and imm./nonbr. plumages have distinctive blackish half-hood. **SOUNDS:** Yelping calls higher, more mewling than

Laughing Gull. **STATUS:** Scarce and sporadic transient, mainly Oct–Dec, Mar–May; very rare in winter. Peak numbers in early to mid-May, when exceptional flocks of 100s in 2017. Most records from coastal areas, but could occur anywhere. (Breeds N America, winters S America.)



RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis* 44–52cm. Medium-size 3-year gull with pale gray back. Found mainly as singles with other gulls on beaches, at river mouths, rarely over inshore waters. Adult distinctive, with yellow legs, pale eyes, neat black bill ring (no red on bill). 1st-year rather pale overall, with pinkish legs, whitish underwings, clean-cut black/white tail pattern, pale gray inner primaries; cf. older imm. of larger Smithsonian Gull. 2nd-year Ring-billed resembles duller adult with more black in wing-tip, often some black on tail, greenish-yellow legs. **STATUS:** Rare and local in coastal areas, mainly Sep–Apr at Ambergris Caye and Belize City; very rare at other seasons and inland. (Breeds N America, winters to Cen America.)



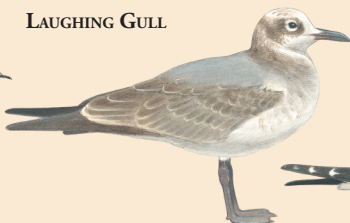
***SMITHSONIAN (AMERICAN HERRING) GULL** *Larus [argentatus] smithsonianus* 56–67cm. The default species of large 4-year gull in Belize; other species occur as very rare visitors or vagrants. All ages have pink legs; male appreciably larger and bigger-billed than female. Found mainly as singles with other gulls at river mouths, coastal lagoons, beaches. Adult (rare in Belize) distinctive, with pink legs, black wing-tips, pale eyes, variable dusky streaking on head and neck in nonbr. 1st-year mottled brownish overall, cf. imm. of rare Lesser Black-backed Gull. 2nd- and 3rd-years highly variable; 2nd-year pattern resembles smaller 1st-year Ring-billed Gull but messier, lacks clean black/white

tail pattern of Ring-billed. **STATUS:** Uncommon to rare and local mid-Oct to Apr, mainly in n. coastal areas; very rare at other seasons and inland. (Breeds N America, winters to Cen America.)

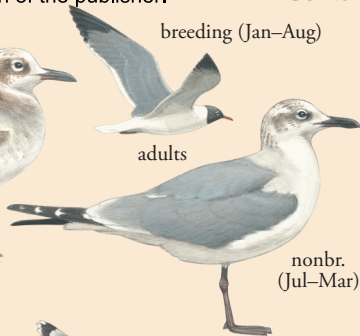


1st-years
(Aug–Jun)

LAUGHING GULL



breeding (Jan–Aug)



adults

nonbr.
(Jul–Mar)

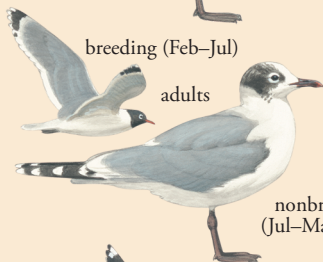


1st-years
(Sep–Mar)

FRANKLIN'S GULL



breeding (Feb–Jul)



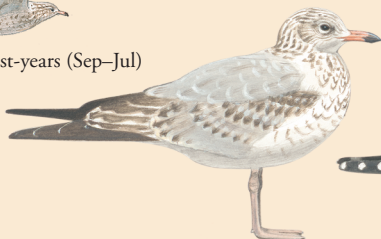
adults

nonbr.
(Jul–Mar)



1st-years (Sep–Jul)

RING-BILLED GULL



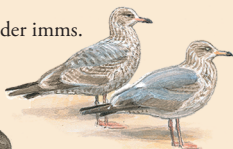
breeding (Feb–Aug)



adults

nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)

older imms.



breeding (Feb–Aug)



1st-years (Sep–Jul)



adults

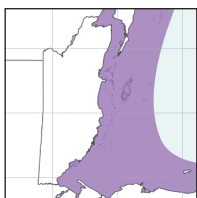
SMITHSONIAN GULL

nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)

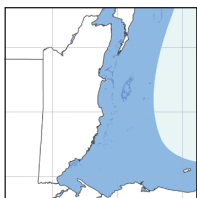
TERNs (LARIDAE; 12+ SPECIES) Worldwide group of waterbirds that resemble gulls but have pointed bills, shorter legs, and typically are smaller, more graceful, with forked tails. Unlike gulls, rarely alight on water, mostly feed by plunge-diving for small fish. Ages differ, sexes similar but males average larger, bigger-billed. Adult appearance attained in 2–3 years; imm. plumages typically resemble nonbr. adults. Seasonal variation mainly in head pattern.



GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica* 33–36cm. Medium-size, rather stocky tern of lagoons, beaches, lakes, wetlands; not over the ocean. Feeds by distinctively swooping down to snatch prey (crabs and such) from ground and shorelines, not by diving into water. Associates readily with other terns, gulls, skimmers. Distinctive: note habits, ghostly pale gray upperparts (no white rump), very tapered and swept-back wings, short tail, thick black bill, relatively long legs. Cf. nonbr./imm. Forster's Tern. **SOUNDS:** Nasal laughing and mellow barking calls, mainly in flight, such as *ku-wek* and *ket-e-wek*. **STATUS:** Uncommon to locally fairly common Aug–May, very rare in summer; most numerous Feb–Apr at Crooked Tree. (Worldwide.)



***SANDWICH TERN** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* 34–36cm (+ 2.5cm adult tail streamers). Distinctive, medium-size tern of beaches, inshore waters, river mouths. Often in flocks with other terns, gulls, skimmers. Note shaggy crest, slender black bill tipped yellow on adult. Juv. bill can be yellowish with dark tip, soon becomes black for 1st year. Cf. Gull-billed Tern. **SOUNDS:** Grating, screechy and rasping calls, such as *krriik*, distinct from *Sterna* terns; 1st-year has high piping whistles. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common year-round along coast, over inshore waters, on cays, most numerous in winter; local breeder on some smaller cays. (Breeds N Atlantic, winters to S Atlantic.)



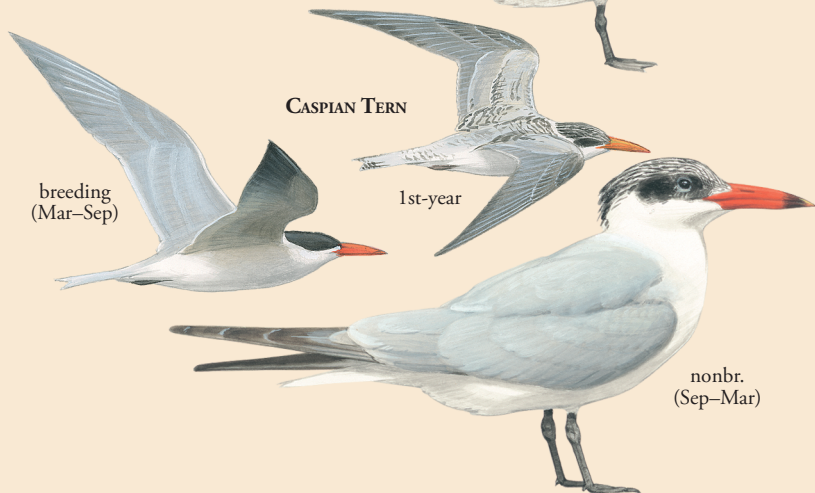
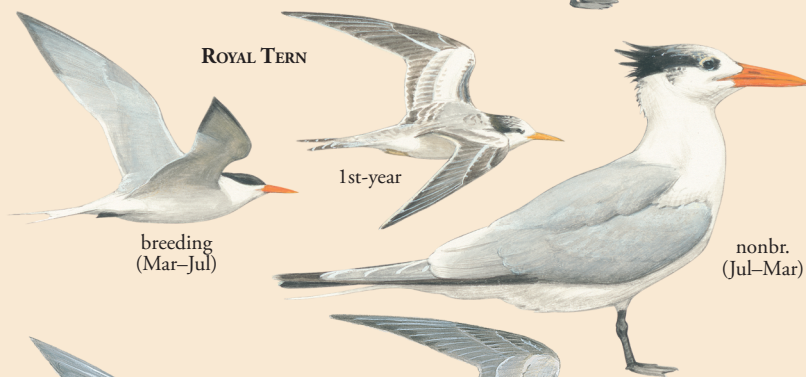
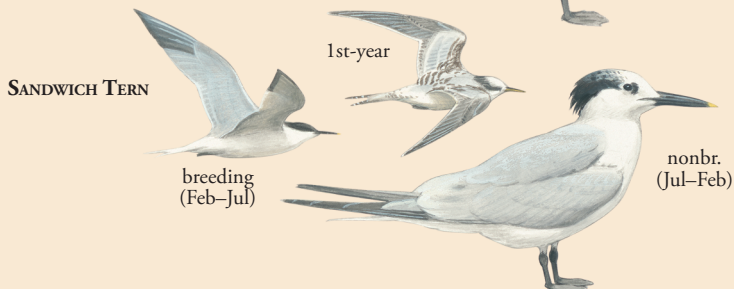
ROYAL TERN *Thalasseus maxima* 43–48cm (+ 5cm adult tail streamers). Large, orange-billed tern of coastal habitats. Often in feeding and roosting flocks with other terns, gulls, skimmers. Slightly smaller and more lightly built than Caspian Tern, with narrower, more angled wings, and longer tail, shaggier cap, uniform orange bill (rarely orange-red); lacks solidly dark underside to wing-tip of Caspian; imm./nonbr. plumages have large 'bald' white forehead, unlike Caspian. Legs rarely orange, mainly on immes. **SOUNDS:** Adult has clucking *krehk* and laughing *kewh-eh*; also grating and screechy calls that may suggest Sandwich Tern; 1st-year has high piping whistles. **STATUS:** Fairly

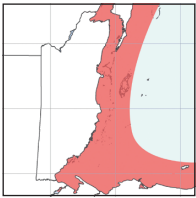
common to common Sep–Apr along coast, over inshore waters, on cays; smaller numbers of nonbreeders remain locally in summer; very rare inland. (Americas.)



CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia* 51–57cm. Largest tern in the world, a scarce but widespread migrant to coastal lagoons, wetlands, river mouths, beaches, very rarely over open ocean. Often rests with groups of other waterbirds, especially gulls, other terns, mainly as singles or small groups. Bulky and broad-winged, lacks long tail streamers. Wingbeats relatively shallow and gull-like. Note overall size and bulk, very stout red bill with black mark near tip, dark underside to primaries; densely black-streaked crown of nonbr./imm. Juv. has orange bill with dark near tip. Cf. Royal Tern. **SOUNDS:** Adult has deep throaty *rahrr*, quite distinct from other terns and may suggest a heron; 1st-year

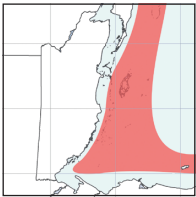
has high lipising whistles. **STATUS:** Uncommon to rare and local Oct–May, mainly along n. coast and locally inland, especially Crooked Tree in spring; a few nonbreeders may remain in summer. (Worldwide except S America.)





LEAST TERN *Sternula antillarum* 21–23cm. Tiny summer migrant tern of coastal waters, cays, sandy beaches, river mouths; nests in colonies on sandy beaches. Tiny size distinctive—body barely larger than a Sanderling! Feeds mainly in coastal and inshore waters; often rests with other terns, smaller gulls, shorebirds. Flies with hurried deep wingbeats and plunge-dives steeply from moderate heights. **SOUNDS:** Varied, slightly sneezy and squeaky calls, typically a 2-syllable *chirit* and *kree-it*. **STATUS:** Fairly common but local and declining breeder Apr–Aug on a few cays and along mainland coast; migrants occur more widely Aug–Oct, mid-Mar to May, when very rare inland. Not

well known in winter, but may occur rarely offshore. (Breeds N America to Mexico, winters Mexico to n. S America.)



ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* 30–33cm (+ 4–5cm adult tail streamers). Lightly built summer migrant tern of inshore marine waters, cays, rarely along mainland coast with other terns. Smaller-bodied and longer-tailed than Common Tern, with more slender bill; rather hurried wingbeats can suggest Least Tern. Breeding adult whiter overall than Common with dusky leading edge to outer primaries but no distinct dark trailing edge; tail white with very long streamers, lacks dark outer web to outermost feathers of Common. Rosy blush to underparts rarely noticeable; bill mostly black Apr–May, develops red base Jun–Aug. Nonbr. whiter than Common, without distinct dark shoulder

bar. **SOUNDS:** Calls include scratchy 2-syllable *kirrik*, unlike Common Tern but reminiscent of Sandwich Tern. **STATUS:** Uncommon, very local, and declining breeder Apr–Aug on cays; very rarely seen on mainland coast, mainly Sep–Dec. (Worldwide.)



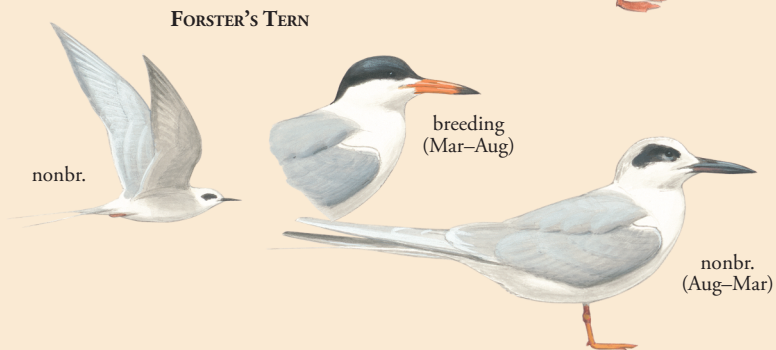
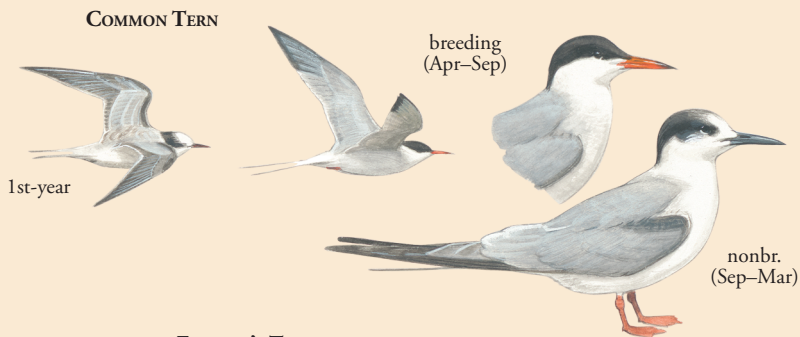
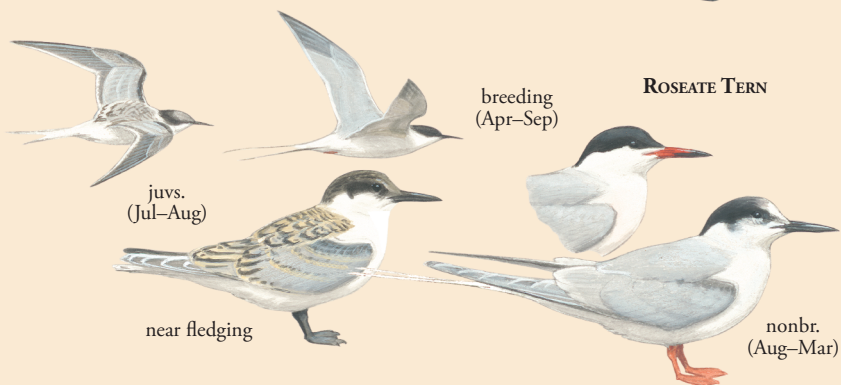
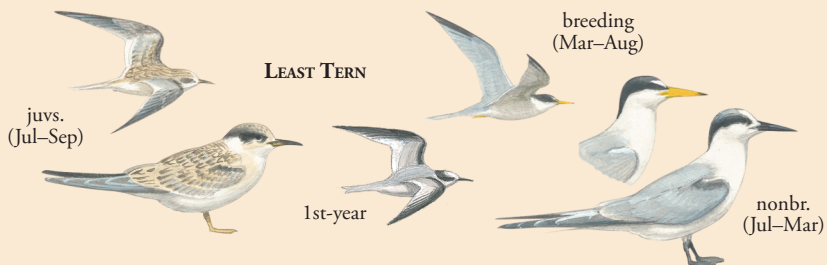
COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* 29–32cm (+ 2.5cm adult tail streamers). Coastal and offshore nonbr. migrant, often resting on beaches, at river mouths, less often in coastal lagoons; feeds mainly over inshore marine waters. Singles or small flocks, often with other terns, gulls. On nonbr./imm. note partial black cap with white forecrown, blackish leading edge to wing (shows at rest as dark shoulder bar). Breeding adult has red bill with small dark tip, pale smoky wash to body. Post-juv. plumages often have dark wedge on trailing edge of primaries (can be indistinct in spring, and also shown by 2nd-year Forster's Tern). Wing molt occurs fall–winter, unlike Forster's. Cf. Forster's and Roseate Terns.

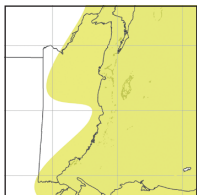
SOUNDS: High sharp *kiik*, suggesting Long-billed Dowitcher. **STATUS:** Uncommon to seasonally fairly common on coast and cays, mainly Aug–Nov, Apr–May; scarce in winter. (Breeds n. Eurasia and N America, winters to S Hemisphere.)



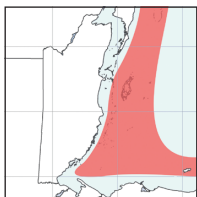
FORSTER'S TERN *Sterna forsteri* 32–36cm (+ 6–7.5cm adult tail streamers). Scarce winter migrant to wetlands, fish farms, coastal lagoons, beaches; rarely offshore. Likely to be found as singles, often resting with other terns, gulls, shorebirds. Slightly larger, bigger-billed than Common Tern. Nonbr./imm. plumages have distinctive black face mask, orange-red legs, cf. Gull-billed Tern. Breeding adult has silvery upperwings, whitish body, orange-red bill with extensive black tip; wing molt completes before winter. Cf. Common Tern.

SOUNDS: Hard clipped *kik!* **STATUS:** Scarce and irregular Oct–Apr; very rare at other seasons. (Breeds N America, winters to Cen America.)



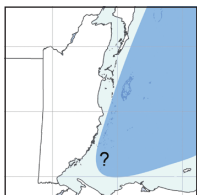


***AMERICAN BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias [niger] surinamensis* 23–25cm. Transient migrant of marine waters, coastal lagoons; also inland at wetlands, shrimp farms. Mainly singles and small groups, associating readily with other terns, but flocks of 100s can occur offshore in fall. Flight slightly floppy, swooping to pick food from near water surface, not plunge-diving; rests on flotsam, sea turtles. Very small size, dusky gray upperparts, and dark spur on sides of breast distinctive; black-bodied full breeding plumage rarely seen in Belize. **SOUNDS:** Quiet piping whistles on occasion. **STATUS:** Uncommon to fairly common, mainly Jul–early Nov, Apr–early Jun; most numerous in fall offshore. (Breeds N America, winters Mexico to S America.)



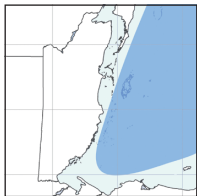
WESTERN BRIDLED TERN *Onychoprion [anaethetus] melanopterus* 33–36cm (+ 5–6.5cm adult tail streamers). Offshore waters; nests in small colonies. Usually singles or small loose groups, at times with feeding flocks of boobies, other terns. Flight buoyant and graceful, swooping to pick from surface rather than plunge-dive; often rests of flotsam. Adult has dark gray-brown upperparts, extensively white tail and underwings, long white brow, cf. Sooty Tern. Imm./ nonbr. has pale edgings to upperparts, messier head pattern. **SOUNDS:** Braying and clucking calls, lower and more grating than Sooty Tern. **STATUS:** Uncommon to fairly common but declining local breeder on cayes, Mar–Aug, with

migrants into Sep–Oct; very rare on mainland, mainly in association with tropical storms. (Tropical Americas, Atlantic.)



SOOTY TERN *Onychoprion fuscatus* 36–39cm (+ 6.5–7.5cm adult tail streamers). Offshore waters. Often in flocks, feeding over schooling fish with boobies, noddies; circles high when searching for food, soaring easily on fairly broad wings, unlike Western Bridled Tern. Adult clean black-and-white with white forehead patch, extensive dark on underside of primaries, cf. Western Bridled Tern. Juv. distinctive, dark sooty brown overall, spotted white to buff above, with contrasting whitish underwing coverts; cf. Common Brown Noddy. **SOUNDS:** Varied clucking calls, including *wed-a-wek*. **STATUS:** Uncommon to fairly common offshore Feb–Aug. Mostly extirpated as a breeding bird from

cayes, courtesy of human disturbance, but may persist locally. Very rare on mainland, in association with tropical storms. (Pantropical.)



COMMON BROWN NODDY *Anous stolidus* 36–42cm. Offshore waters, usually as singles or small groups feeding with boobies, other terns. Feeding flight typically low to the water, swooping to pick from the surface; transiting flight low and direct, when can suggest a small jaeger. Rests on flotsam. Habits and uniform dark brown plumage (including underwings, cf. juv. Sooty Tern) distinctive; adult has whitish forehead, juv. has narrow whitish bridle. **STATUS:** Scarce offshore, mainly Apr–Oct but reported in all months; very rare on mainland, in association with tropical storms. Formerly bred locally on cayes. (Pantropical.)

SKIMMERS (1 species) Small pantropical group treated as a distinct family or as a subfamily within gull and tern assemblage. Ages differ, attaining adult appearance in 1st year; sexes similar but male has appreciably larger bill.



***BLACK SKIMMER** *Rynchops niger* 43–45.5cm, WS 115–123cm. Rare. Distinctive, angular, and boldly patterned waterbird that may be found at river mouths, sandbars, coastal lagoons. Singles or small groups rest with gulls and terns. Flocks typically fly in rather compact, wheeling formation, wingbeats mainly above body plane. Feeds in flight, mostly at night, by slicing elongated mandible through water surface and snapping shut on contact with food. Breeding plumage has solidly black hindneck; juv. has pale edgings to upperparts. **SOUNDS:** Nasal laughing and barking calls, *kruh* and *kwuk*; calls mainly in flight, including at night. **STATUS:** Rare and irregular Nov–Mar along coast, especially around Belize City and Dangriga; very rare and sporadic inland. (Americas.)

AMERICAN BLACK TERN

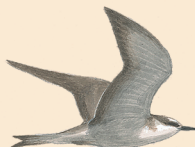


nonbr.
(Jul–Mar)



breeding
(Apr–Jul)

WESTERN BRIDLED TERN



juvs.
(Jun–Oct)

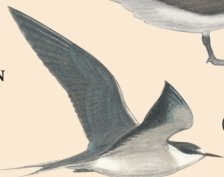


breeding
(Feb–Aug)



juvs.
(Jun–Nov)

SOOTY TERN



breeding
(Jan–Sep)



adult

1st-year



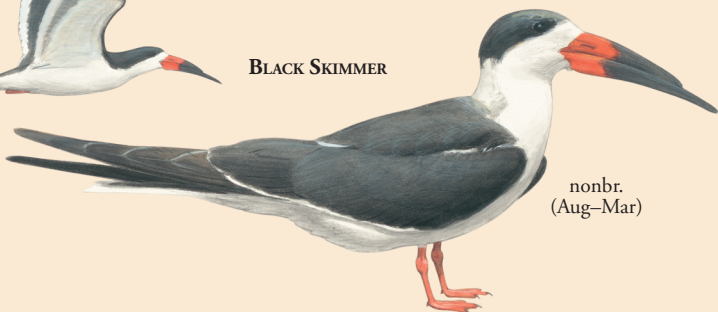
adult

**COMMON
BROWN NODDY**



breeding
(Mar–Aug)

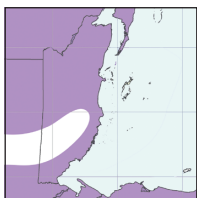
BLACK SKIMMER



nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)

SHOREBIRDS (34+ SPECIES) For ID purposes there are 3 basic types of shorebirds: 3 unmistakable large species (stilt, avocet, oystercatcher; opposite); 7+ plovers (visual feeders, with stop-start feeding actions; pp. 50–53); and 23+ sandpipers (mainly tactile feeders, picking and probing as they walk along; pp. 54–63). Most favor open habitats, typically near water, and different species often associate together, which can help greatly with ID—compare size, shape, bill shape, and behavior of an unfamiliar species with other species you know; voice and habitat can also be useful.

STILTS AND AVOCETS (RECURVIROSTRIDAE; 2 SPECIES) Small worldwide family of elegant, long-legged shorebirds found in warmer climates. Ages/sexes differ slightly, avocet has seasonal plumage changes; adult plumage attained in 2nd year.



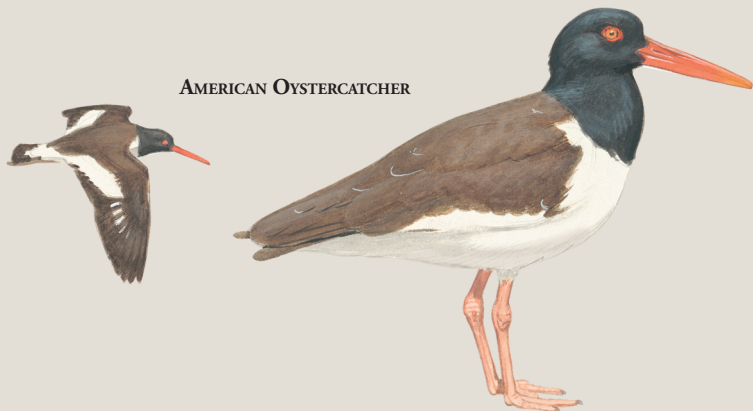
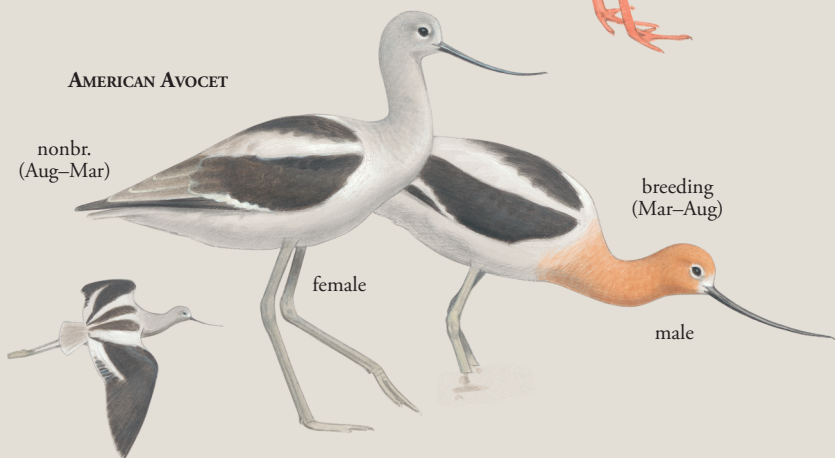
BLACK-NECKED STILT *Himantopus mexicanus* 36–41cm. Essentially unmistakable, a visually elegant but vocally irritating large shorebird with improbably long, hot-pink legs. Breeds at lagoons, shrimp farms; ranges to varied wetland habitats, less frequent on open coast. Often in flocks, associating readily with other shorebirds, and often breeds in small colonies. Male has glossy black back and wings, breast often flushes pink on breeding birds; female and imm. back brownish; juv. has weaker dark head and neck pattern, whitish trailing edge to secondaries; like adult in 1st year. **SOUNDS:** Varied, often persistent yapping and clucking calls, especially when nesting, have earned the nickname ‘Marsh Poodle;’ sharp piping *kiip* suggests Long-billed Dowitcher. **STATUS:** Fairly common to locally common, especially in winter; more local and less numerous in summer, but increasing with expansion of shrimp farms. (N America to n. S America.)



AMERICAN AVOCET *Recurvirostra americana* 40–43cm. Rare nonbr. migrant. Elegant and essentially unmistakable shorebird with fine, upcurved bill, boldy pied plumage. May be found in varied wetland habitats, especially shrimp farms, river mouths, coastal lagoons. Singles or small groups associate readily with other shorebirds, especially stilts. Sexes similar, but male has straighter bill than female. Juv. has rusty-tinged neck, like adult nonbr. by winter. **SOUNDS:** Overslurred piping *kleéh*, singly or in series, at times persistently repeated; can recall oystercatchers. **STATUS:** Rare and irregular Oct–Mar, very rarely lingering into May–Jun. (Breeds N America to Mexico, winters to Cen America.)

OYSTERCATCHERS (HAEMATOPODIDAE; 1 SPECIES) Small worldwide family of large stocky shorebirds with laterally compressed, bright orange-red bills, thick pink legs. Ages differ slightly, sexes similar; like adult in 2nd year.

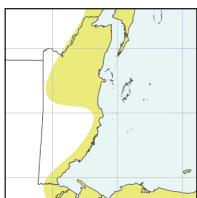
AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus palliatus* 40.5–45.5cm. Rare and local nonbr. migrant. A distinctive, large, boldly patterned shorebird of sandy beaches, river mouths, mudflats. Usually occurs in ones and twos, often associating with other waterbirds at high-tide roosts. 1st-year has duller eyes and legs, dark-tipped bill. **SOUNDS:** Loud piping and screaming calls, *Wheeh* and *h’wheek*, often run into shrill piping chatters, at times prolonged. **STATUS:** Rare to very rare and local in coastal areas, including inshore cayes, mainly Sep–Mar; most records from Dangriga. (Americas.)



PLOVERS (CHARADRIIDAE; 7+ SPECIES) Worldwide family of small to large shorebirds. Big eyes and short bills attest to visual hunting strategy, unlike probing and picking of sandpipers. Most migrants show seasonal variation; residents similar year-round. Ages usually differ, with juv. resembling nonbr.; attain adult appearance in 1st year. Sexes usually differ slightly, at least in breeding plumage, with males having more extensive black on face and underparts.



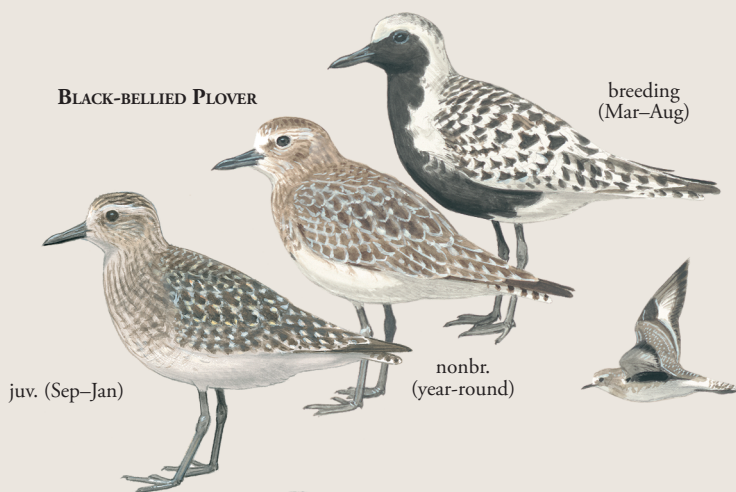
BLACK-BELLIED (GRAY) PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* 26.5–28cm. Large bulky plover of coastal habitats, from sandy beaches to mudflats, coastal lagoons. Locally in small flocks, associating readily with other shorebirds. Note large bulk, stout bill; in flight, note white rump, white wingstripe, black ‘armpits.’ Attains breeding plumage Feb–Apr, before migration. Juv. (Sep–Jan) resembles neater, browner version of nonbr., with streaked breast, finely spangled upperparts, cf. American Golden Plover. **SOUNDS:** Melancholy slurred whistles, *heéueeh* and *chweéee*; typically lower, more drawn-out than American Golden Plover. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common Aug–Apr on coast and cays, smaller numbers May–Jul include oversummering nonbr. imms. Rare and sporadic inland, mainly during migration. (Breeds n. Eurasia and N America, winters almost worldwide.)



AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* 24–25.5cm. Rare spring transient. Medium-size plover mostly found in open grassland, rice fields, at lakeshores, less often coastal habitats. Occurs as singles and small flocks, which may associate with other shorebirds. Smaller and slimmer than Black-bellied Plover, with slender bill, mostly dark upperparts (narrow whitish wingstripe), dusky underwings; also lacks small hind toe of Black-bellied. Juv. and nonbr. plumages rather dull above, not golden, with contrasting dark cap and whitish eyebrow. Attains breeding plumage Apr–May, at staging areas mainly n. of Belize. **SOUNDS:** Varied plaintive whistles. Fairly mellow *ch’weit* and flutier, more rolled *chweél*. **STATUS:** Uncommon to scarce and local Mar–May; unrecorded in fall, but possible. (Breeds N America, winters S America.)

***CAYENNE [SOUTHERN] LAPWING** *Vanellus [chilensis] cayennensis* 34–36cm. Vagrant. Large spectacular shorebird, slowly spreading north from South America. No similar species in Belize: note wispy crest, black chest shield, big white wing panels in flight. Singles or rarely pairs could be found at wetlands, lakeshores, ranchland, and semi-open areas with ponds, often in areas with other waterbirds. Flies with unhurried bowed wingbeats suggesting a heron. **SOUNDS:** Can be noisy, including at night: varied strident barks and shrieking cries, mainly when disturbed and in display. **STATUS:** Vagrant, to date known only from Crooked Tree, where a single bird was present 2004–2007. Increasing in Central America and may become more frequent in Belize. (S America, spreading to Cen America.)

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

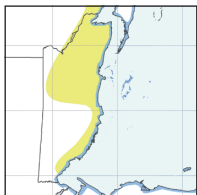


AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER

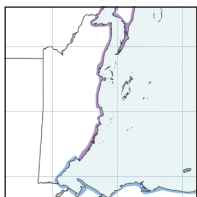


CAYENNE LAPWING

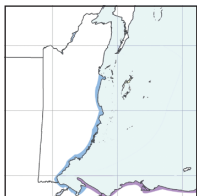




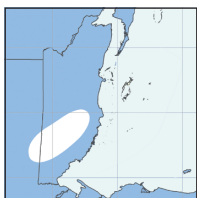
SEMI PALMATED PLOVER *Charadrius semipalmatus* 16.5–17.5cm. Nonbr. migrant to coastal habitats, especially muddy tidal flats and beaches; also occurs in mangroves, flooded fields, on lakeshores. Often in small flocks, which feed in well-spaced arrays but roost more tightly, often with other shorebirds. Note orange legs, wet-sand tone to upperparts, and stubby, orange-based bill. **SOUNDS:** Upslurred, slightly plaintive *ch'wiih* and sharper *ch'wiet!* Nasal bickering chatters in feeding interactions. **STATUS:** Fairly common Aug–May on coast and cayes, where rarely a few oversummer; rare to sporadically uncommon inland, mainly during migration. (Breeds N America, winters to S America.)



WILSON'S PLOVER *Charadrius wilsonia* 18–19cm. Small but big-billed plover, a local resident of sandy beaches, lagoon shores, mangrove flats; often breeds in areas with gravel. Mainly feeds by chasing down small crabs. Often in loose groups, associating with other shorebirds mainly at roosts. Note heavy black bill, pinkish legs. Male has black head and breast markings, female dark brown. **SOUNDS:** Sharp high *piik!* and clipped *pri-dik*; dry, buzzy chatters in interactions. **STATUS:** Uncommon to fairly common on coast and cayes, breeding locally in north, rarely in south; more widespread and numerous in fall–winter. (Americas.)

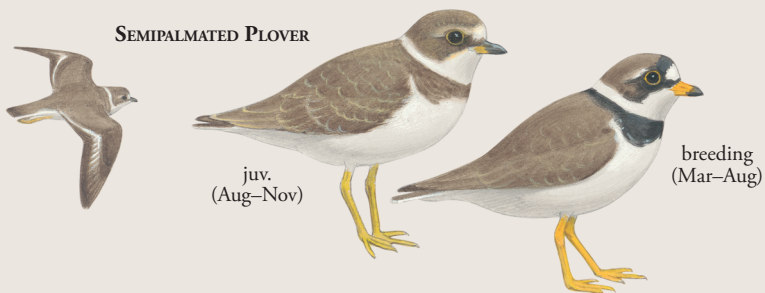


COLLARED PLOVER *Charadrius collaris* 14–15cm. Rare and poorly known in Belize. May be found in varied coastal habitats from beaches and river mouths to shrimp farms. Usually singles, rarely small groups, often apart from other shorebirds. Note neat, narrow black collar, rusty cheeks, fine dark bill, pinkish legs; lacks whitish hindneck collar of other small ringed plovers in Belize. Juv. plumage held briefly; no seasonal change in appearance, but patterns slightly veiled in fresh plumage. **SOUNDS:** Clipped sharp *pik*, suggesting Wilson's Plover; mellow rolled *krip* that can run into chatters. **STATUS:** Rare to very rare nonbr. visitor to coast and cayes, mainly Nov–Mar; rare sporadic breeder at coastal shrimp farms; very rare wanderer inland, Mar–Jun. (Mexico to S America.)

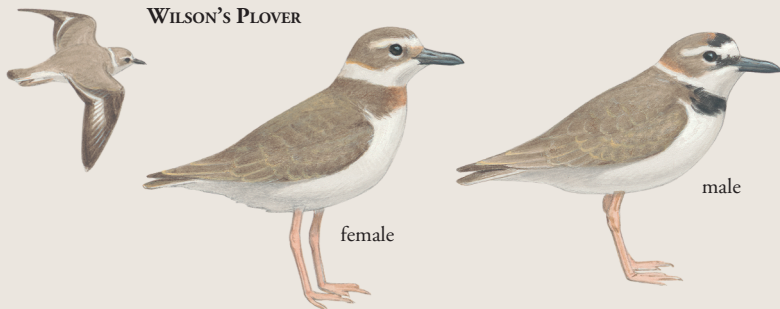


KILLDEER *Charadrius vociferus* 24–25.5cm. Relatively large, long-tailed, and often unabashedly noisy nonbr. migrant ringed plover, with distinctive double black breast band, bright rusty rump, and dark-tipped tail. Frequently away from water, in plowed fields, grasslands, other open habitats; rarely open beaches and tidal flats. Singles and small flocks may occur in any open grassy habitat, usually apart from other shorebirds. Ages/sexes similar. **SOUNDS:** Varied wailing and screaming cries, singly or in series, including a repeated, onomatopoeic *kill-deeu....* **STATUS:** Uncommon to fairly common Oct–Mar, a few birds sometimes from mid-Sep and into Apr. (Americas.)

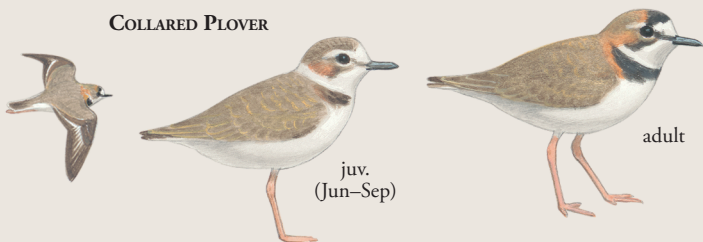
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER



WILSON'S PLOVER



COLLARED PLOVER



KILLDEER



SANDPIPERS (SCOLOPACIDAE; 24+ SPECIES) Nearly worldwide family of small to large shorebirds breeding mainly at high latitudes; no species breeds in Belize, but nonbr. imms. of several species may remain through the summer. Ages differ slightly to distinctly, with juv. usually resembling nonbr. plumage; attain adult appearance in 1st year. Sexes sometimes differ, at least in breeding plumage; females larger, longer-billed in most species.



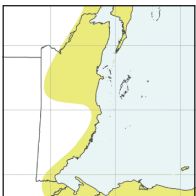
***WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus* 35.5–43cm. Uncommon migrant. Large brown sandpiper with long decurved bill, found on beaches, at river mouths, coastal lagoons, estuaries, nearby fields; feeds by probing, at times while wading. Found singly or in small groups, readily associating with other shorebirds. Cf. larger and buffier Long-billed Curlew (cinnamon underwings, plainer face, and longer bill, but short-billed juv. approaches Whimbrel). **AGES/SEXES** similar. **SOUNDS:** In flight, fairly rapid series of overslurred piping whistles, *pee-pee-pee...*, 6–9 notes/sec. Quavering fluty whistles in territorial interactions. **STATUS:** Uncommon Aug–Apr on coast and cayes; a few remain locally through summer. (Breeds n. N America, winters to S America.)

LONG-BILLED CURLEW *Numenius americanus* 45.5–58.5cm. Rare migrant. Very large, buffy-brown sandpiper with very long decurved bill (appreciably shorter on 1st-year). Favors tidal mudflats, also beaches, river mouths, coastal lagoons; feeds by probing, at times while wading. Usually singles, readily associating with other shorebirds; cf. Whimbrel, sleeping Marbled Godwit. **AGES/SEXES** similar; 1st-year shorter-billed, adult female appreciably longer-billed than male. **SOUNDS:** Slightly shrieky hoarse *reep* and slurred rising *hoorietep* in flight; plaintive quavering whistles and bubbling choruses. **STATUS:** Rare to very rare and irregular Aug–Apr on coast and cayes. (Breeds w. N America, winters to Cen America.)

MARBLED GODWIT *Limosa fedoa* 38–46cm. Rare migrant. Large buffy-brown sandpiper with long, slightly recurved, pinkish bill tipped dark. Favors tidal mudflats, beaches, river mouths, coastal lagoons; feeds by probing, often while wading in fairly deep water. Usually singles, readily associating with other shorebirds. Only godwit regularly seen in Belize; cf. Long-billed Curlew, especially when sleeping. Breeding plumage has variable dark barring on underparts. **SOUNDS:** Nasal, slightly crowing, *ab-ha* and *abk*, at times in laughing series. **STATUS:** Rare and irregular Aug–Apr on coast and cayes, mainly in north. (Breeds N America, winters to Cen America.)

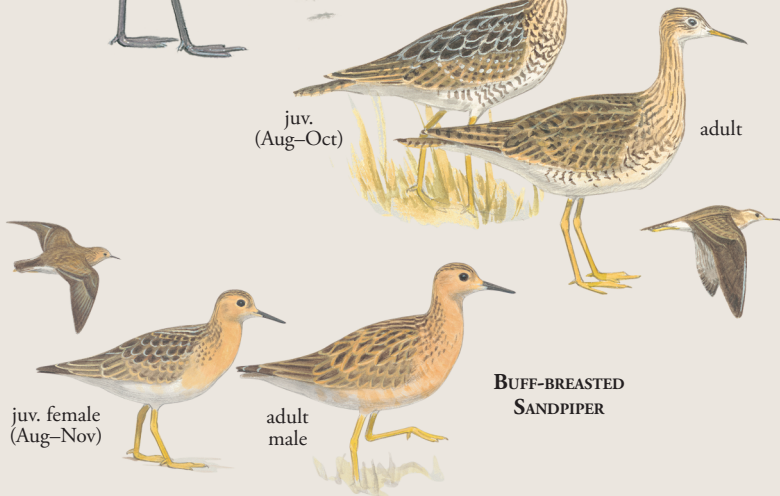
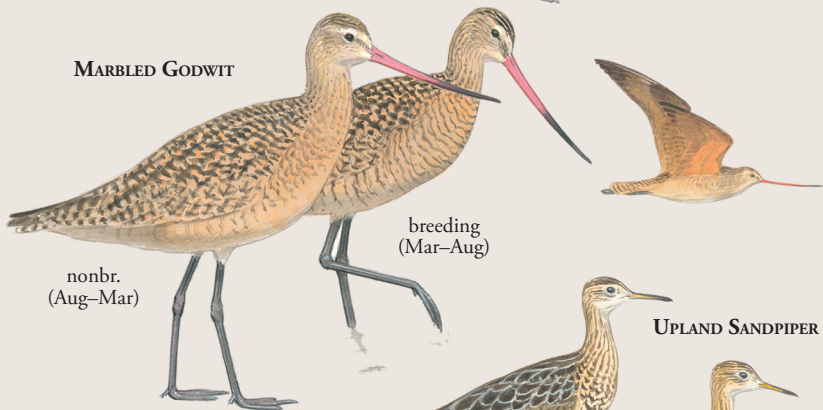
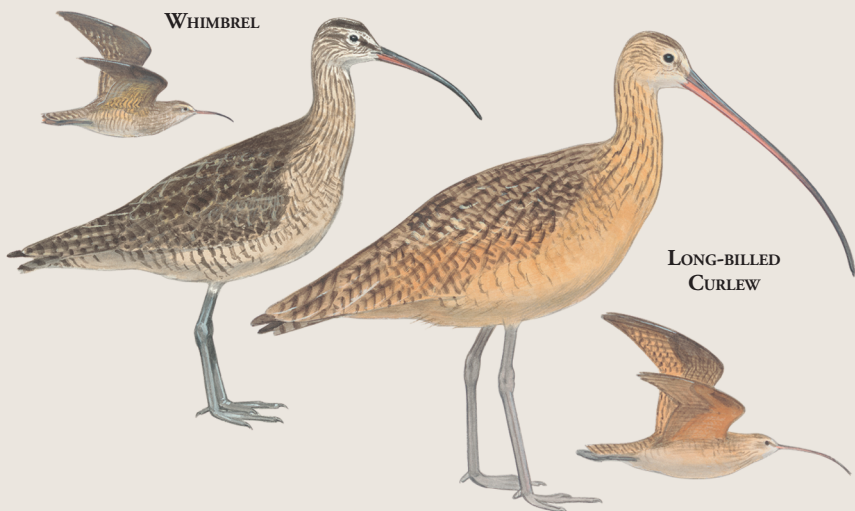


UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda* 28–30.5cm. Scarce but widespread transient migrant in open grassy habitats, usually not around water. Found as singles or, especially in spring, in small groups, often apart from other shorebirds; feeds by picking in grass. Distinctive, medium-size, long-necked sandpiper with cryptic plumage, long tail, slender straight bill, yellowish legs. Little age/seasonal variation, but juv. neater and scaly above in fall. **SOUNDS:** Mainly in flight, a quick, slightly liquid whistled *whi-whit* and rippling *whi-whi-whuit*. **STATUS:** Uncommon and sporadic transient mid-Mar to mid-May, scarce late Jul to mid-Oct. (Breeds N America, winters S America.)



BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Calidris subruficollis* 18–20.5cm. Scarce transient migrant. Attractive small sandpiper of open habitats, from grassy fields and newly planted rice fields to lakeshores, rarely to sandy beaches; often not near water. Singles or rarely small flocks, at times associating loosely with other shorebirds, especially American Golden Plover, Upland Sandpiper. Walks with high-stepping gait, picking for food; can be confiding. Distinctive, with blank face, beady eye, plain buffy breast, yellow legs; white underwings contrast with buff body. Little age/seasonal variation but juv. notably fresh and scaly above in fall; male slightly larger than female. **SOUNDS:** Mostly silent; quiet low

clucks on occasion. **STATUS:** Scarce and sporadic transient, mainly late Aug–Sep, late Mar to mid-May. (Breeds N America, winters S America.)



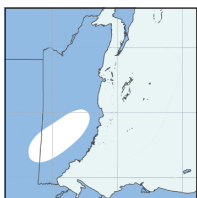
GENUS *TRINGA*

(5 species). Medium-size to large sandpipers with fairly long, often colorful legs and overall straight bills; upperparts typically have fine pale spotting or spangling in nonbr. plumages, vs. paler edging and scaly look typical of *Calidris* sandpipers. Often bob head or whole body when alarmed and tend to be fairly wary, flying off with whistled or yelping calls.



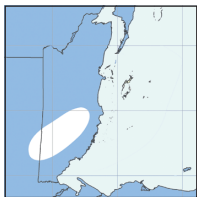
SOLITARY SANDPIPER *Tringa solitaria* 20.5–21.5cm. Medium-size migrant sandpiper of quiet freshwater ponds, lake edges, grassy wetlands; not on open mudflats or beaches. As the name suggests, does not associate strongly with other shorebirds, although small flocks can occur during migration. Often towers when flushed, wingbeats deep, quick, and swallow-like. Distinctive, with solitary habits, fairly long greenish legs, dark underwings in flight. Cf. Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper. Little age/seasonal variation. **SOUNDS:** Slightly plaintive piping whistles in short series, *twee-weet* and *tweet-sweet-sweet*; brighter and flutier than Spotted Sandpiper, may suggest alarm call of Barn Swallow.

STATUS: Uncommon to fairly common transient, late Jul–Oct, Mar–May, less numerous and more local in winter. (Breeds N America, winters Mexico to S America.)



LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes* 24–25.5cm. Medium-size, long-legged sandpiper of varied fresh and saltwater habitats from small ponds and lakeshores to coastal lagoons, flooded rice fields; rarely open mudflats, beaches. Locally in flocks of 100s, often in same areas as Greater Yellowlegs. Feeds while wading, picking at water surface; rarely swims. Main confusion is with larger, stouter-billed Greater Yellowlegs, which is about willet-size, vs. Lesser, which is about dowitcher-size; Greater has louder, ‘shouted’ calls vs. mellower calls of Lesser. Also cf. Stilt Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper. **SOUNDS:** Downslurred whistled *tew* or *kyew*, often in short series suggesting Short-billed Dowitcher,

rarely strident enough to suggest Greater Yellowlegs. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common Aug–Apr on mainland, scarce on cays; more common and widespread in migration, Jul–Oct, Mar–May. (Breeds N America, winters to S America.)



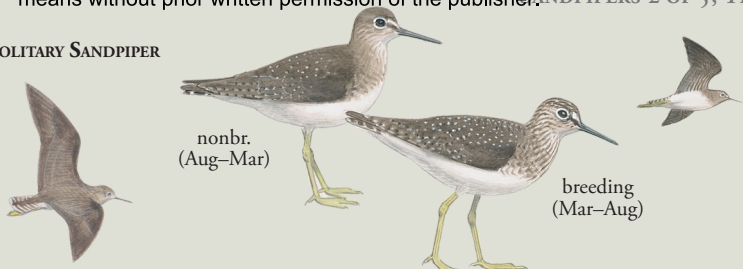
GREATER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa melanoleuca* 29.5–31.5cm. Large, long-legged sandpiper of varied wetland habitats, much like Lesser Yellowlegs. Rarely in flocks of more than 20 birds. Feeds while wading; often dashes actively and sweeps bill side-to-side, vs. more sedate picking of Lesser Yellowlegs; rarely swims. Cf. willets, Lesser Yellowlegs. **SOUNDS:** Typical call a series of (usually 3–4) ringing downslurred whistle, *tchu-tchu-tchu*; repeated sharp yelp when agitated, *kyehw...* **STATUS:** Fairly common to common Aug–Apr on mainland, less numerous on cays; more common and widespread in migration, Jul–Oct, Mar–May. A few may oversummer locally. (Breeds N America, winters to S America.)



***WESTERN WILLET** *Tringa [semipalmata] inornata* 33–35.5cm. Large, rather stocky sandpiper of varied coastal habitats, shrimp farms near coast; feeds by picking and probing, often in shallow water. Willets as such are distinctive, but distinguishing Eastern from Western can be challenging (see below, under Eastern): note stout straight bill, whitish spectacles, gray legs; diagnostic wing pattern striking in flight. **SOUNDS:** Noisy. Varied, mainly 3- or 4-note mellow to loud shrieking whistles, *kri-wih-wih* and *krri-WI-WI-wihr*; nasal inflected *kyeh'eh* and short series, *kyeh-yeh-yeh*; alarm a sharp yapping *kyih!* at times repeated steadily. **STATUS:** Uncommon Aug–Apr on coast and cays; more numerous and widespread in migration, Jul–Oct, Mar–May, when very rare inland; small numbers oversummer locally. (Breeds w. N America, winters to S America.)

***EASTERN WILLET** *Tringa semipalmata* 32–34.5cm. Very similar to Western Willet, but slightly smaller and stockier overall, with deeper, blunter bill, shorter legs; breeding plumage averages darker and browner, with pinkish tinge to bill and legs. **SOUNDS:** Calls similar to Western, but average higher, less husky. **STATUS:** Scarce (overlooked?) coastal transient, Aug–Oct, Jan–Mar. (Breeds e. N America to Caribbean, winters S America.)

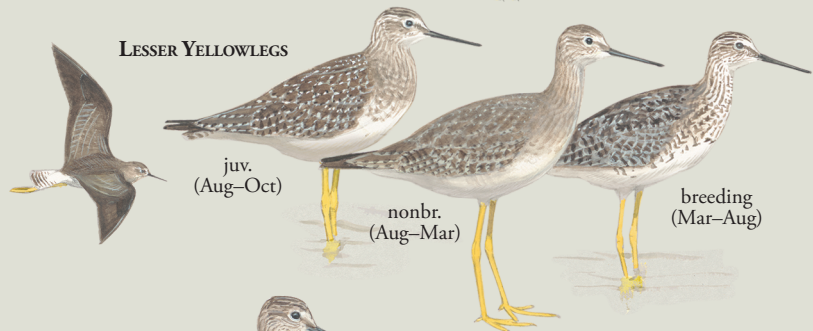
SOLITARY SANDPIPER



nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)

breeding
(Mar–Aug)

LESSER YELLOWLEGS

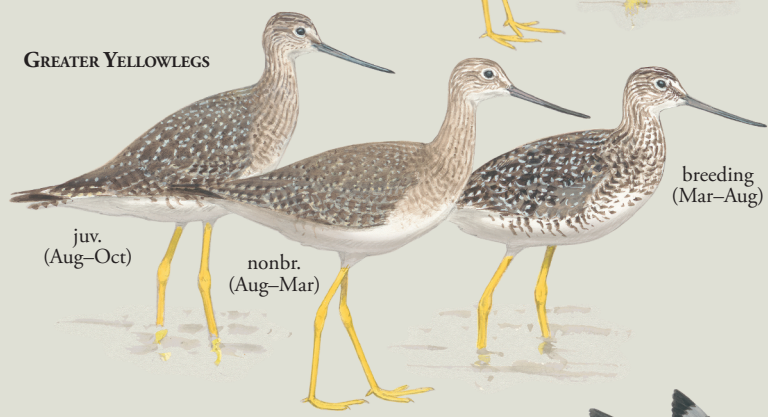


juv.
(Aug–Oct)

nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)

breeding
(Mar–Aug)

GREATER YELLOWLEGS

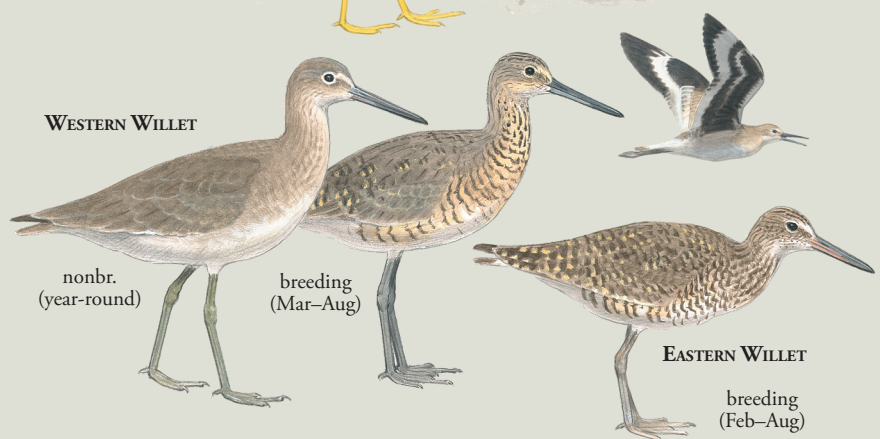


juv.
(Aug–Oct)

nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)

breeding
(Mar–Aug)

WESTERN WILLET



nonbr.
(year-round)

breeding
(Mar–Aug)

EASTERN WILLET

breeding
(Feb–Aug)



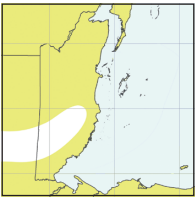
SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularius* 16.5–18cm. Distinctive small sandpiper of varied fresh and saltwater habitats from lakeshores and rivers to estuaries and ponds, often with stony and rocky shores; perches readily on posts, mangrove branches. Usually single birds, rarely loose small groups in migration, typically apart from other shorebirds. Walks with almost constant bobbing of rear end; rarely wades in water. Flight typically low over water with stiff flicking beats of bowed wings. Note habits, white spur at chest sides; breeding plumage has variable black spotting below; juv. like nonbr. with narrow pale edgings to upperparts. **SOUNDS:** High, slightly plaintive to piping single notes and short phrases, *siit* and *wie-wie-wie...*, etc. **STATUS:** Fairly common but low density Aug–Apr; more widespread in migration, Jul–Sep, Mar–May. (Breeds N America, winters to S America.)



RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* 22.5–24cm. Distinctive, chunky, medium-size sandpiper of coastal habitats, especially sandy beaches, jetties. Often in flocks, associating readily with other shorebirds. Pokes and overturns seaweed, stones, in search of prey. Note bright red-orange legs, dark breast patches, variegated upperparts with striking flight pattern. Breeding female has dusky head markings, duller upperparts than male; juv. (Aug–Oct) like nonbr. but with neat pale scaly edgings to upperparts, duller legs. **SOUNDS:** Sharp *kyew!* and relatively mellow *ch-tu*, can suggest Short-billed Dowitcher; varied bickering chatters. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common Sep–Apr in coastal areas, especially cays; more widespread in migration, Jul–Oct, Mar–May, when very rare inland; small numbers overwinter locally. (Breeds n. Eurasia and N America, winters almost worldwide.)



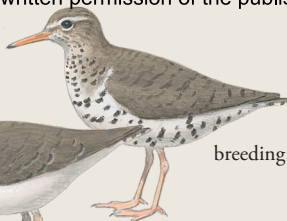
SANDERLING *Calidris alba* 18–19cm. A large ‘small sandpiper’ of sandy beaches, river mouths. In small groups, locally of 100s, less often singles; associates readily with other shorebirds, especially small sandpipers. Feeds by picking and probing, often along tideline. Note overall pale plumage with darker shoulder patch, medium-length straightish bill, black legs; lacks hind toe of other small and medium-size sandpipers. Breeding plumage rare in Belize. **SOUNDS:** Slightly nasal bright *kiip* and *whiik*. **STATUS:** Fairly common locally Sep–Apr on coast and cays, more widespread during migration, late Jul–Oct, Apr–May. (Breeds n. Eurasia and N America, winters s. in New World to S America.)



WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Steganopus (Phalaropus) tricolor* 20.5–22cm. Scarce transient. Elegant, medium-size sandpiper of wetlands with open water, shrimp farms; rarely in coastal habitats. Feeds mainly while swimming, picking at water surface with fairly long fine bill; also feeds on shore, at times with tail cocked high, chasing flies. Mainly singles, rarely small flocks, associating readily with other shorebirds. Breeding plumage distinctive (male duller); nonbr. notably pale and silvery gray overall, in flight shows white rump. Cf. Lesser Yellowlegs and Stilt Sandpiper, which swim rarely. **SOUNDS:** Mostly silent, rarely uttering low muffled grunts. **STATUS:** Scarce to sporadically uncommon transient, Aug–Oct, Apr–May. (Breeds N America, winters mainly S America.)



WILSON'S SNIBE *Gallinago delicata* 25–26.5cm. Distinctive, medium-size, long-billed cryptic sandpiper of grassy marshes, lakeshores, other vegetated wetlands; not in open situations. Mostly seen feeding at marsh edges early and late in day or when flushed from grassy vegetation, usually as singles or loose aggregations. Flushed flight strong and erratic, often low initially then towering before dropping back to cover. All plumages similar, with striped face, bold buffy back stripes. **SOUNDS:** Usually utters low rasping *zzhek* when flushed. **STATUS:** Uncommon to locally fairly common Oct–Mar, a few from Sep and into Apr. (Breeds N America, winters to n. S America.)



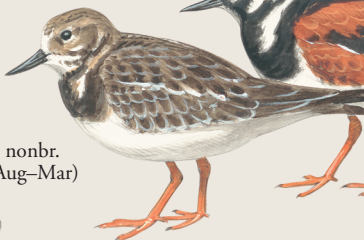
SPOTTED SANDPIPER

breeding (Mar–Aug)

nonbr.
(Sep–Mar)



RUDDY TURNSTONE



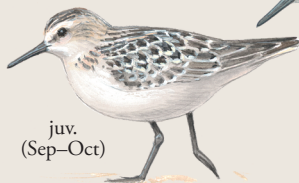
nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)

male breeding
(Mar–Aug)



nonbr. (Aug–Apr)

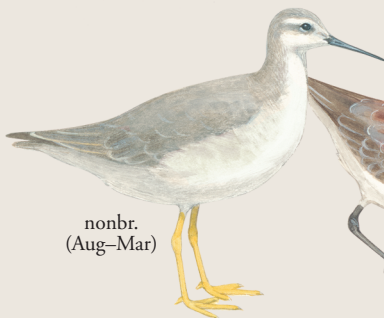
SANDERLING



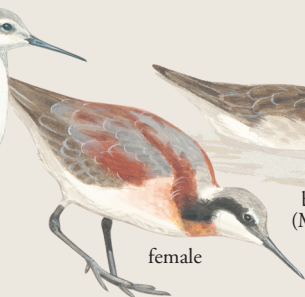
juv.
(Sep–Oct)



breeding
(Apr–Aug)



nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)



female



male

breeding
(Mar–Aug)



WILSON'S PHALAROPE



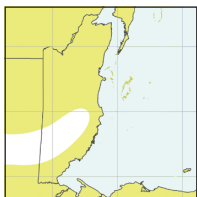
WILSON'S SNIPE





LEAST SANDPIPER *Calidris minutilla* 13–14cm. Commonest, most widespread small sandpiper in Belize, found in varied fresh and saltwater habitats from small ponds and lakeshores to tidal mudflats, coastal lagoons, rice fields; less often open beaches. Often in flocks, locally of 100s, mixing readily with other small sandpipers but often keeping to drier and more vegetated habitats than Western Sandpiper. Feeds by picking and probing; creeps along muddy shores with flexed legs rather than striding and wading in open water like Western Sandpiper. Note rather mouse-like demeanor, overall brownish plumage with white belly, medium-length decurved bill; yellowish legs often

muddy. Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers larger and whiter-breasted, walk more upright, favor open habitats. **SOUNDS:** High, reedy trilled *krreep* and lower *krriit*; varied low trilling. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common Aug–Apr; more widespread in migration, mid-Jul to Sep, Mar–May. (Breeds N America, winters to n. S America.)

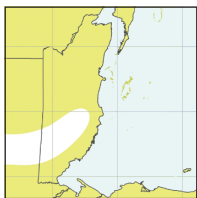


SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusilla* 14–15cm. Transient migrant. Small, rather compact sandpiper with short to medium-length bill, dark legs. Found in varied wetland habitats from coastal lagoons and mudflats to river mouths, flooded fields, lakeshores; associates readily with other small sandpipers. Feeds by probing and picking. From Western Sandpiper by structure, especially shorter, blunter-tipped bill (some female Semipalmated have longer bill, overlapping short-billed male Western); juv. more uniform above than juv. Western (vs. grayish with rusty scapulars). Cf. Least and other small sandpipers. **SOUNDS:** Fairly sharp *kyip*, lower *chrit*. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common

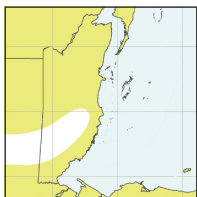
transient, mid-Jul to Oct, late Mar–early Jun, most numerous in fall, especially Aug. Scarce and local in winter along mainland coast. (Breeds N America, winters Mexico to S America.)



WESTERN SANDPIPER *Calidris mauri* 15–16.5cm. Small, rather long-necked sandpiper with relatively long, slightly decurved bill, black legs. Mainly in coastal habitats such as mudflats, river mouths, beaches, also shrimp farms; associates readily with other small sandpipers. Feeds by probing and picking, often wading up to its belly. Note contrasting gray and bright rusty tones on juv. and breeding plumages; cf. Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers. **SOUNDS:** High, scratchy, downslurred *chrit*, burry *chrrit*. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common Sep–Apr, especially on and near coast; more widespread in migration, late Jul–Oct, Mar–May, when rare inland; a few nonbr. imms. may remain through summer. (Breeds N America, winters to n. S America.)

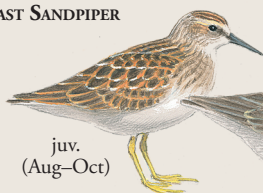


WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* 17–18.5cm. Transient migrant. Small, very long-winged sandpiper of varied wetland habitats, from coastal mudflats to rice fields. Singles or small groups, seasonally 100s, mixing readily with other small sandpipers. Feeds by picking and probing, often wading in shallow water. Note long wings projecting past tail tip, lack of buffy plumage tones, voice; white uppertail coverts distinctive in flight. Cf. Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers. **SOUNDS:** Very high, slightly tinny, descending *jit*, easily missed. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common spring transient, mid-Apr to mid-Jun (mainly mid–late May); very rare and irregular in fall, mid-Sep to mid-Oct. (Breeds N America, winters S America.)



PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* 19.5–23cm. Transient migrant. Medium-size, cryptic sandpiper of marshy wetlands, flooded fields, lakeshores, coastal lagoons; rarely on open mudflats, beaches. Singles or small groups, at times associating with other shorebirds. Feeds by probing and picking, often near and within grassy vegetation. Note medium size (male appreciably larger than female), yellowish legs, clean-cut 'pectoral' demarcation between streaky brown breast and whitish belly. Little age/seasonal variation. **SOUNDS:** Rolled, slightly wet *krrip*, lower in male. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common late Jul–Oct, Mar–May. (Breeds N America, winters S America.)

LEAST SANDPIPER



juv.
(Aug–Oct)

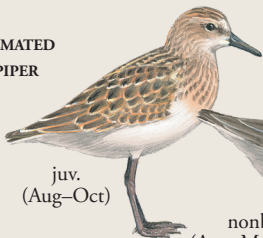


nonbr. (Aug–Mar)



breeding
(Mar–Aug)

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER



juv.
(Aug–Oct)

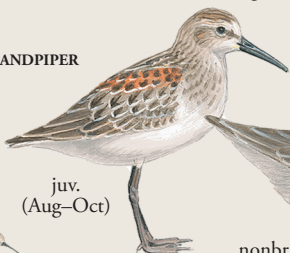


nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)



breeding
(Mar–Aug)

WESTERN SANDPIPER



juv.
(Aug–Oct)

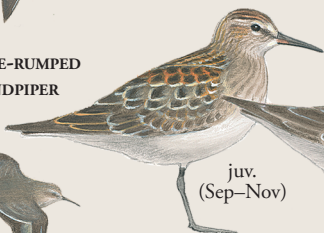


nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)



breeding
(Mar–Aug)

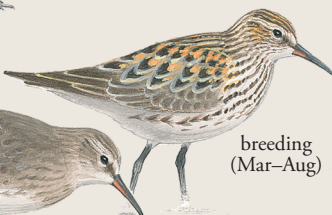
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER



juv.
(Sep–Nov)

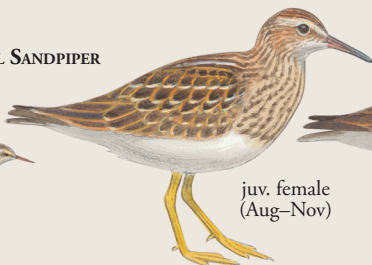


nonbr. (Aug–Mar)



breeding
(Mar–Aug)

PECTORAL SANDPIPER



juv. female
(Aug–Nov)



adult male



RED KNOT *Calidris canutus* 25.5–26.5cm. Medium-size, rather fat sandpiper of tidal mudflats, river mouths, coastal lagoons, beaches, shrimp farms. Singles, rarely small groups, mix readily with other sandpipers and Black-bellied Plovers. Feeds mainly by probing. Distinctive but rather nondescript in winter; body size slightly larger than a dowitcher, but bill and legs obviously shorter. Breeding plumage seen briefly in spring, less often on worn fall migrants. **SOUNDS:** Often silent. Nasal inflected *che'wer* and upsurred *wek* in flight. **STATUS:** Rare to uncommon and local Oct–Mar; more widespread during migration, late Aug–Oct, Mar–Apr. (Breeds n. Eurasia and N America, winters s. in New World to S America.)



STILT SANDPIPER *Calidris himantopus* 20–21.5cm. Medium-size, rather long-legged sandpiper of fresh and brackish marshes, shrimp farms, coastal lagoons; rarely estuaries, beaches. Often in groups, feeding and roosting with Long-billed Dowitchers; less often singles mixed among other shorebirds. Feeds by probing while wading up to its belly, rear end typically raised steeply out of water. Slightly smaller and paler gray than Long-billed Dowitcher, with whitish brow, shorter black bill with slightly drooped tip; in flight note white rump, feet projecting well past tail tip. Also cf. Lesser Yellowlegs. **SOUNDS:** Mostly silent; quiet gruff grunts and clucks on occasion. **STATUS:** Uncommon to fairly

common locally Sep–Apr; more widespread in migration, Aug–Oct, Mar–May. (Breeds N America, winters Mexico to S America.)



SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus griseus* 24–28cm. The default coastal dowitcher, favoring tidal flats, river mouths, mangroves; also freshwater areas in migration. Often in flocks, associating with other shorebirds; sometimes with Long-billed Dowitcher, mainly in migration. Distinguished with care from Long-billed, which favors fresh water, is darker overall in all plumages, with broader dark tail barring; juv. Long-billed has narrow chestnut edging to upperparts, lacks buff notching on tertials and coarse mottling on scapulars of juv. Short-billed; nonbr. Long-billed has darker chest without dusky spotting of Short-billed, heavier dark flank barring; breeding Long-billed solidly rusty

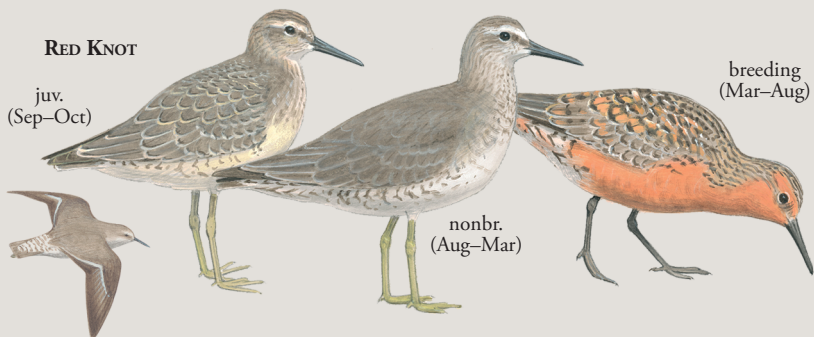
below, barred on sides of breast, with white tips to scapulars. Also cf. Stilt Sandpiper. Populations of Short-billed differ in breeding plumage, some populations extensively rusty below. **SOUNDS:** Mellow *ch-tu* or *ch-tu-tu* and longer variations; quality recalls Lesser Yellowlegs. **STATUS:** Fairly common Aug–Apr on coast and cays; more widespread in migration, mainly Jul–Sep, Apr–May, when may occur rarely inland. (Breeds N America, winters to S America.)



LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 25.5–29cm. The default inland dowitcher, where may occur locally in 100s at freshwater wetlands, flooded rice fields; also shrimp farms, mangroves, sewage ponds, but rarely open tidal flats. Habits much like Short-billed Dowitcher (see that species for ID). Fresh spring breeding plumage shown opposite; becomes appreciably darker by fall. **SOUNDS:** High sharp *kiik!* recalls yipping call of Black-necked Stilt; usually given singly by birds in flight or in rapid short series by flushed birds; sometimes lower-pitched and trebled, *kib-tii-tii*, inviting confusion with Short-billed Dowitcher. **STATUS:** Fairly common locally Sep–Apr; more widespread in migration, late Aug–Oct, Apr–May. (Breeds N America, winters to Cen America.)

RED KNOT

juv.
(Sep–Oct)

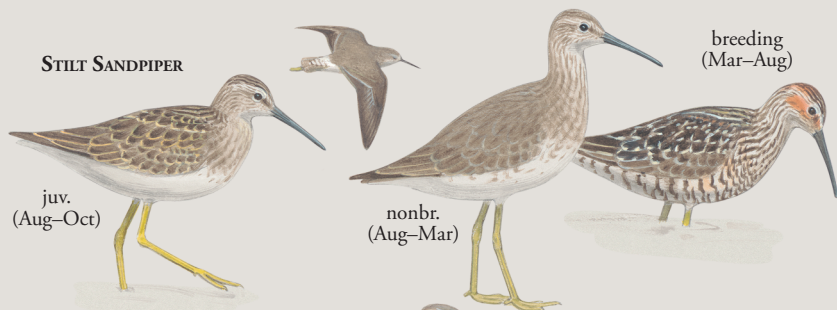


breeding
(Mar–Aug)

nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)

STILT SANDPIPER

juv.
(Aug–Oct)



breeding
(Mar–Aug)

nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER

nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)



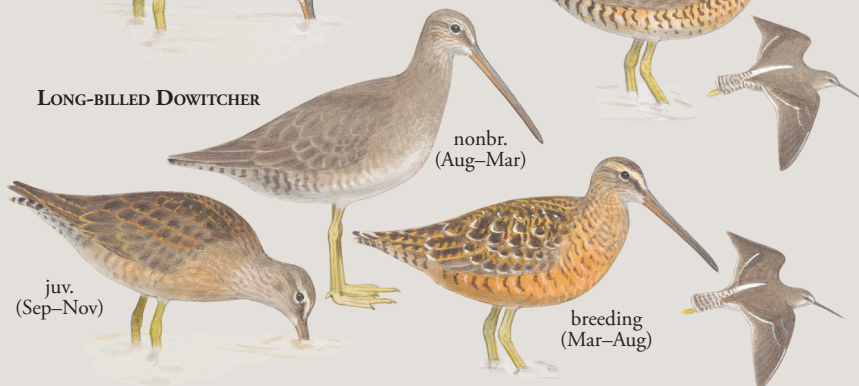
variation

breeding
(Mar–Aug)

juv.
(Aug–Oct)

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER

nonbr.
(Aug–Mar)



breeding
(Mar–Aug)

juv.
(Sep–Nov)

HERONS (ARDEIDAE; 17 SPECIES) Worldwide family of typically long-necked, long-legged birds with dagger-like bills; usually near water. Fly with neck retracted in bulge, unlike ibises, spoonbills, storks. Ages differ or similar, attain adult appearance in 1–3 years. Bare-parts often brighten or change color strikingly for brief periods at height of breeding season. Most species nest colonially in trees and marshes, often in mixed-species aggregations. Usually quiet except when disturbed or interacting at colonies; bitterns and tiger heron, however, have 'songs.'



WESTERN CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* 45–53cm. Fairly small, compact white heron usually found in fields and farmland near cattle, horses, tractors, which flush up prey; also flooded fields, lakeshores, but not habitually out in wetlands, unlike most herons and egrets. Social, usually in groups, locally to 100s. Distinctive, with stocky shape, yellow bill, dark legs; cinnamon-buff plumes on crown, chest, and back most extensive on breeding adult, can be absent on 1st-year; at height of breeding, bill and lores flush salmon, legs scarlet. Fledgling bill can be blackish, soon like adult. In flight, note rather stocky shape without pronounced neck bulge of Snowy Egret. **SOUNDS:** Gruff

clucks and grunts, mainly when nesting. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common mid-Sep to early May; smaller numbers occur locally through the summer, but breeding in Belize apparently unconfirmed. (Americas, Africa, and W Eurasia.)



SNOWY EGRET *Egretta thula* 49–59cm. Elegant, fairly small white egret of varied wetland habitats from beaches and river mouths to small ponds, mangroves. Singles or small groups, rarely low 100s, hunt while wading or waiting. Often dashes actively in shallows. Note slender black bill and contrasting yellow lores; adult has shaggy crest, ornate back plumes, yellow feet contrasting with blackish legs; lores flush orange at height of breeding. Fledgling bill can be yellowish, tipped black, soon like adult; 1st-year has greenish-yellow feet and hind edge to legs, cf. 1st-year Little Blue Heron. **SOUNDS:** Varied guttural rasps and croaks; higher, more nasal than American Great Egret. **STATUS:** Fairly

common to locally/seasonally common Sep–Apr; smaller numbers occur locally through the summer, but breeding in Belize apparently unconfirmed. (Americas.)



***AMERICAN GREAT EGRET** *Ardea [alba] egretta* 84–99cm. The only large white heron in most of Belize, found in a wide variety of wetland habitats from roadside ditches and flooded fields to coastal lagoons, mangroves. Mostly singles or small groups, but 100s can gather at favored feeding lagoons with aggregations of other wading birds. Note wholly white plumage, yellow bill, blackish legs and feet; adult has long ornate back plumes, variable black on maxilla in breeding season, bright green lores at height of breeding. Cf. scarce Great White Heron in n. coastal areas and cayes. **SOUNDS:** Varied, deep guttural calls, often with creaky quality; average less stentorian than Great Blue Heron;

lower, harsher than Snowy Egret. **STATUS:** Fairly common to locally/seasonally common Sep–Apr; smaller numbers occur through the summer and breeds locally in coastal areas. (Americas.)



***GREAT WHITE [GREAT BLUE] HERON** *Ardea [herodias] occidentalis* 102–127cm. Coastal. Very large white heron of cayes, mangroves, beaches. Usually singles, sometimes in association with other wading birds. Only likely confusion is with slightly smaller, less heavily built American Great Egret: note Great White Heron's stout bill with variable dark on maxilla, mostly gray lores, pale tibia; adult has thin wispy crest. At height of breeding, adult lores flush blue, bill is wholly orange-yellow, legs pink. Presumed hybrids with Great Blue Heron resemble pale Great Blue with extensively white face. **SOUNDS:** Much like Great Blue Heron. **STATUS:** Scarce and sporadic on n. cayes, very rare visitor on mainland coast s. to Dangriga. (Caribbean region.)





LITTLE BLUE HERON *Egretta caerulea* 51–61cm. Fairly small dark heron of varied wetland habitats, from river mouths and mangroves to flooded fields, shrimp farms; more often found at isolated small ponds and ditches than other egrets. Singles or small groups, locally 100s at favored feeding areas, often mixed with other wading birds. Hunts mainly by waiting, slow stalking. Adult smaller and darker than Reddish Egret, with blue-gray base to bill, yellow-green legs; at height of breeding, bill base and lores flush blue, legs and feet blackish. 1st-year Little Blue easily passed off as Snowy Egret but slightly stockier, with bluish-gray face and black-tipped bill, yellowish-green legs and feet, fine dark

tips to outer primaries. Piebald molting birds seen frequently for a few months, mainly May–Aug. **SOUNDS:** Much like Snowy Egret, but often slightly raspier. **STATUS:** Fairly common to locally/seasonally common, mainly Aug–Apr; small numbers oversummer locally, mainly imms., but not known to breed in Belize. (Americas.)



TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* 56–66cm. Handsome, 'snake-necked' heron of varied wetland habitats, from river mouths and mangroves to flooded fields, coastal lagoons, shrimp farms. Singles or small groups, rarely more than 20 or so birds together; often with other wading birds. Hunts by waiting, often coiled and hunched low in shallow water, and by active dashing. Distinctive, but perhaps better named 'bicolored' heron, with overall dark slaty-gray plumage and contrasting white belly; also note long slender bill, yellowish face; at height of breeding, bill base and lores flush violet-blue, legs and feet pinkish red. 1st-year has rusty head and neck sides, like adult in 2nd year. **SOUNDS:** Relatively

high, drawn-out, squawking *aaadab*, at times in short series; also lower nasal calls. **STATUS:** Fairly common, mainly Oct–Mar, especially in coastal areas, with smaller numbers through summer; breeds locally in north. (Americas.)



REDDISH EGRET *Egretta rufescens* 66–77cm. Rather large, dimorphic egret (white morph uncommon) of coastal habitats from lagoons and river mouths to beaches, mangroves. Singles or small aggregations, often with other wading birds; hunts by dashing actively, often raising wings, also by stalking and waiting. Note fairly large size, slender bill (pink base most of year on adult), dark legs; at height of breeding, lores and legs flush cobalt blue, bill base brighter pink. Dark morph adult has shaggy rusty head and neck plumes; white morph wholly white (all ages). 1st-year dark morph slaty gray overall with variable rusty tinge to neck, dark bill, staring whitish eyes; cf. adult Little Blue Heron.

SOUNDS: Low moaning groans and grunts; mostly quiet away from colonies. **STATUS:** Uncommon to fairly common on n. coast and cays, breeding locally; rare visitor to s. coast, very rare wanderer inland. (N America to Caribbean, winters to S America.)



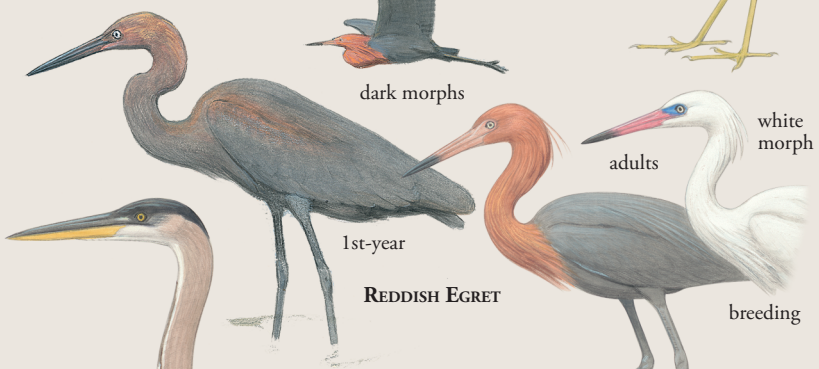
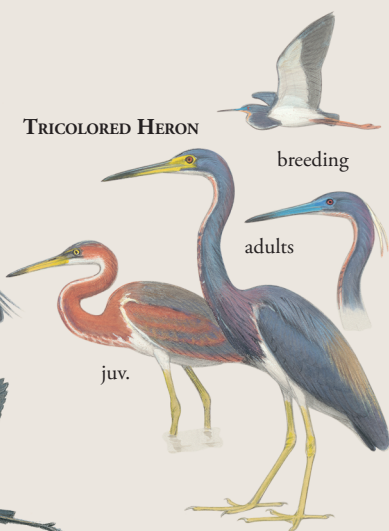
GREAT BLUE HERON *Ardea herodias* 102–127cm. The only very large dark heron in Belize, widespread in fresh and saltwater habitats, from beaches and mangroves, to lakeshores, flooded fields, roadside ponds and ditches. Singles or local concentrations up to 50 or so birds, often in areas with other herons, egrets, storks, ibises. Hunts by waiting and slow stalking. Flight heavy, with slow deep wingbeats, neck retracted in a bulge like other herons; neck can be extended briefly after takeoff. Adult has clean white crown, shaggy neck and back plumes, clean plumage; at height of breeding, lores flush blue-gray, bill bright orange-yellow. 1st-year has black crown, duskiest plumage with pale

edgings to upperparts; 2nd-year like dull adult, crown partially to mostly white. **SOUNDS:** Flight call a loud, explosive *rrek!* Other varied sounds include deep throaty croaks, often with raspy, complaining quality. **STATUS:** Fairly common but mostly low density, mainly late Sep–Apr, with smaller numbers through summer; breeds locally in north. (N America to Mexico, winters to S America.)

LITTLE BLUE HERON



TRICOLORED HERON



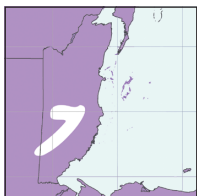
REDDISH EGRET

GREAT BLUE HERON





BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* 56–64cm. Chunky, mainly nocturnal heron often seen during the day in varied fresh and brackish wetland habitats. Hunts along edges and in shallow water, waiting and stalking slowly for fish. Roosts mainly in trees, often not deeply hidden, at times with or near Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Rather compact in flight, with short foot projection past tail tip, cf. longer-legged, more lightly built Yellow-crowned. Adult plumage distinctive; juv./1st-year from Yellow-crowned by shape, yellow-based pointed bill, shorter legs, coarser pale spots and streaks on upperparts. Cf. Boat-billed Heron. 2nd-year like duller, browner version of adult. At height of breeding, adult lores become black, legs flush bright salmon-red. **SOUNDS:** Flight call a gruff barking *worbk!* or *wabk*, with rising inflection. Other low guttural calls when nesting and disturbed. **STATUS:** Uncommon to fairly common, mainly Oct–May, but scarce on cayes; small numbers occur locally in summer, but breeding as yet unconfirmed in Belize. (Worldwide except Australasia.)



YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nyctanassa violacea* 51–59cm. Mainly nocturnal but often seen during the day, in varied brackish and freshwater habitats, especially mangroves. Main food is crabs, and regularly hunts away from water, such as in coconut plantations and on open beaches. Roosts mainly in trees, often not deeply hidden. More lightly built than Black-crowned Night Heron with stouter blackish bill, longer neck, longer legs; in flight, feet project well past tail tip. Adult distinctive. Cf. juv./1st-year Black-crowned (nestling Yellow-crowned has yellow at bill base, soon darkens). 2nd-year like duller, browner version of adult. At height of breeding, adult lores become black, legs

flush bright salmon-red. **SOUNDS:** Flight call a slightly grating *owbr* or *kyowb*, higher and more nasal than Black-crowned Night Heron, typically with more downward inflection. Low guttural clucks when nesting and disturbed. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common in coastal areas and on cayes, less numerous and more local inland; breeds locally, mainly in coastal belt and on cayes. (Americas.)



***BOAT-BILLED HERON** *Cochlearius cochlearius* 46–53cm. Distinctive nocturnal heron of fresh and brackish marshes, coastal lagoons, slow-moving rivers, mangroves; spends the day roosting, well hidden in trees; tends to leave roost later than night herons. Hunts at night along shorelines and in shallow water. Flight direct with slightly stiff wingbeats emphasizing the upstroke, subtly distinct from steadier bowed wingbeats of night herons. Note very broad bill with distensible pouch, big dark eyes. Slightly smaller and more compact than Black-crowned Night Heron, with shorter toe projection in flight; adult has contrasting black underwing coverts. Juv. lacks pale spots and streaks of juv. night

herons. **SOUNDS:** Usually silent in flight at dusk. At roost when disturbed, and when nesting, utters varied clucks and chatters, often with chuckling cadence, such as *kuh-kuh kuk-kuh ku-kah*. **STATUS:** Uncommon to fairly common locally, especially in coastal belt lowlands. (Mexico to S America.)

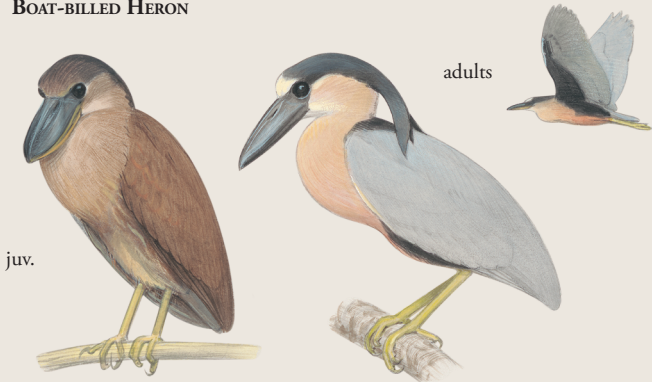
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON

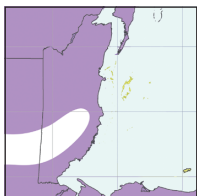


YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON



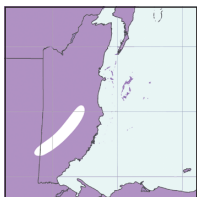
BOAT-BILLED HERON





LEAST BITTERN *Ixobrychus exilis* 28–31cm. Very small, retiring heron of fresh and brackish marshes with tall reeds, rushes, lakes with bordering reedbeds; migrants may occur in any wet habitat, including mangroves. Rarely wanders far from cover; mainly hunts from perch over water, clambering easily through reeds. Daytime flights usually short and low over reedbeds, with fairly quick wingbeats; flushes from close range, legs often dangling, and usually flies a short distance before dropping back to cover. Distinctive (note big buff wing panel in flight); cf. larger, stockier, and overall dark juv. Green Heron. Male cap and back black, female dark brown. At height of breeding, male lores flush

scarlet, legs bright orange. **SOUNDS:** Common call a raspy barking *kyeh-kyeh-kyeh-kyeh-kyeh*, slowing slightly at end, given irregularly, sometimes when flushed; suggests Clapper Rail but shorter, not pulsating. In breeding season, 'song' a fairly rapid series of about 5–10 muffled coos, *cub-cub-cub-cub-cub*, often repeated steadily and can be given at night; may suggest Black-billed Cuckoo song but lower, huskier. **STATUS:** Scarce to uncommon Sep–Apr; smaller numbers occur more locally in summer, and breeds locally. (Americas.)



GREEN HERON *Butorides virescens* 38–43cm. Small dark heron of varied wetland habitats from mangroves and cayes to small roadside ponds, extensive wetlands, shrimp farms, often with wooded edges and cover nearby. Usually singles, locally a few birds concentrated at good feeding sites, and often apart from other herons. Hunts by waiting or slow stalking, often hunched motionless on low branch or other perch over water. Distinctive, given small size, overall dark plumage; note rusty neck sides, bright yellow legs. Juv. has streaked neck, much like adult by end of 1st year. At height of breeding, adult lores become black, legs flush bright salmon-orange. **SOUNDS:** Flight call a clipped, slightly

explosive yapping *kyah!* or *kyowh*, often in short series when flushed; hollow, low clucking series when agitated, *kub-kub-....* In breeding season, 'song' is a low, frog-like growl, *reeohr*, repeated. **STATUS:** Fairly common to common, but low density, Sep–Apr; smaller numbers occur through summer and breeds locally, including cayes. (N America to Panama.)



AGAMI HERON *Agamia agami* 66–76cm. Scarce. Very long-billed tropical heron of shady forested wetlands, mangroves, quiet forest streams and ponds. Usually solitary, quiet, and stealthy; often rather shy and usually apart from other herons, but breeds locally in colonies. Easily overlooked, dark plumage blending well with shady habitats. Note very long slender bill, rather short dull legs, habits. Adult stunning, with silvery blue-gray filigree neck plumes, chestnut neck and belly, deep oily-green upperparts; attains plush silvery-gray crest in breeding season, when lores and throat flush bright red. Imm. distinctive, with very long bill, brown face, neck and upperparts, pale belly.

SOUNDS: Mostly quiet. Territorial call a low, throaty, purring growl, about 1–2 secs, repeated every few secs. **STATUS:** Generally scarce and local, but seasonally fairly common around breeding colonies and in late winter at Crooked Tree. (Mexico to S America.)

(continued...)

INDEX OF ENGLISH NAMES

- Albatross, Atlantic Yellow-nosed 288
Amazon, Mealy 138
 Northern Mealy 138
 Red-lored 138
 White-fronted 140
 Yellow-headed 138
 Yellow-lored 140
 Yellow-naped 288
 Yucatan 140
Anhinga 32
Ani, Groove-billed 144
 Smooth-billed 144
Antbird, Bare-crowned 188
 Dusky 188
Antshrike, Barred 188
 Black-crowned 186
 Great 188
 Russet 186
 Slaty 186
Anthrush, Mayan 188
 Mexican 188
Antvireo, Plain 186
Antwren, Dot-winged 186
 Slaty 186
Ant-tanager, Middle American 262, 296
 Red-crowned 262
 Red-throated 262, 296
Aracari, Collared 152
Attila, Bright-rumped 210
 Middle American 210, 293
Avocet, American 48

Bananaquit, Common 272, 296
 Cozumel 272, 296
Barbthroat, Band-tailed 162
Becard, Cinnamon 190
 Gray-collared 190
 Rose-throated 190
 White-winged 190
Bentbill, Northern 200
Bittern, American 72
 Least 70
 Pinnated 72
Blackbird, Melodious 278
 Red-winged 286
 Yellow-headed 289
Bluebird, Eastern 218
Bobolink 286
Bobwhite, Black-throated 84
 Yucatan 84

Booby, Atlantic Brown 36
 Brown 36
 Masked 36
 Red-footed 36
Bunting, Blue 260
 Eastern Blue 260, 296
 Indigo 260
 Lazuli 289
 Painted 258
Bush-tanager, Common 248
 Middle American 248, 295

Cacique, Yellow-billed 276, 296
Caracara, Crested 92
Catbird, Black 216
 Gray 216
Chachalaca, Plain 84
Chat, Gray-throated 262
 Yellow-breasted 248
Chlorospingus, see Bush-tanager
Chuck-will's-widow 128
Coot, American 82
Coquette, Black-crested 168
Cormorant, Double-crested 132
 Neotropic 132
Cotinga, Lovely 194
Cowbird, Bronzed 278
 Brown-headed 289
 Giant 280
 Shiny 278
Crake, Gray-breasted 78
 Ruddy 78
 Uniform 80
 Yellow-breasted 78
Crossbill, Red 254, 296
Cuckoo, Black-billed 144
 Common Squirrel 142, 292
 Dark-billed 288
 Mangrove 144
 Pheasant 142
 Squirrel 142
 Striped 142
 Yellow-billed 144
Curassow, Great 86
Curlew, Long-billed 54

Dickcissel 262
Dove, Blue Ground 134
 Caribbean 136, 292
 Common Ground 134

- Eurasian Collared 130
Gray-chested 136
Gray-headed 136
Inca 134
Lawrence's 136, 292
Mourning 130
Plain-breasted Ground 134
Rock 130
Ruddy Ground 134
White-tipped 136
White-winged 130
Yucatan, Zenaida 288
- Dowitcher, Long-billed 62
Short-billed 62
- Duck, Black-bellied Whistling 26,
290
Fulvous Whistling 26
Masked 30
Muscovy 26
Ring-necked 28
Ruddy 288
Dunlin 288
- Eagle, Bald 288
Crested 110
Harpy 110
Solitary 100, 104
- Egret, American Great 64, 291
Cattle 64
Great 64
Reddish 66
Snowy 64
Western Cattle 64
- Elaenia, Caribbean 202
Greenish 198
Mesoamerican 198, 293
Yellow-bellied 202
- Emerald, Canivet's 168, 292
White-bellied 168
- Euphonia, Blue-hooded 256
Elegant 256
Olive-backed 256
Scrub 256
White-vented 256
Yellow-throated 256
- Fairy, Purple-crowned 164
- Falcon, Aplomado 116
Barred Forest 112
Bat 116
Collared Forest 112
Laughing 92
Orange-breasted 116
Peregrine 118
- Flamingo, American 288
- Flatbill, Eye-ringed 198
Sclater's 198, 293
Yellow-olive 198
- Flycatcher, Acadian 202
Alder 204
Boat-billed 212
Brown-crested 208
Dusky-capped 208
Fork-tailed 214, 294
Great Crested 208
Least 202
Northern Ochre-bellied 196, 293
Northern Royal 196
Northern Social 212, 294
Northern Streaked 210, 294
Ochre-bellied 196
Olive-sided 206
Piratic 210
Ruddy-tailed 196
Scissor-tailed 214
Sepia-capped 198
Social 212
Streaked 210
Sulphur-bellied 210
Sulphur-rumped 196
Vermilion 206
White-throated 204
Willow 204
Yellow-bellied 202
Yellow-olive 198
Yucatan 208
- Foliage-gleaner, Buff-throated 184
Middle American 184, 293
Scaly-throated 184
- Forest-Falcon, see Falcon
- Frigatebird, Magnificent 34
- Gadwall 288
- Gallinule, Common 82
Purple 82
- Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray 224, 295
Eastern 224
Mexican 224
Tropical 224
White-browed 224
- Gnatwren, Long-billed 224
Northern 224, 295
- Godwit, Hudsonian 288
Marbled 54
- Goldentail, Blue-throated 170
- Goldfinch, Lesser 254
- Goose, Canada 288
White-fronted 288
Snow 288
- Grackle, Great-tailed 278

- Grassquit, Blue-black 270
Yellow-faced 268
- Grebe, Least 30
Pied-billed 30
- Greenlet, Lesser 226
Tawny-crowned 226
- Grosbeak, Black-faced 258
Black-headed 289
Blue 260
Blue-black 260
Northern Black-faced 258, 296
Rose-breasted 258
- Ground-Dove, see Dove
- Ground-Sparrow, see Sparrow
- Guan, Crested 86
- Gull, American Herring 40
Black-tailed 288
Bonaparte's 288
Franklin's 40
Great Black-backed 288
Herring 40
Iceland 288
Laughing 40
Lesser Black-backed 38
Ring-billed 40
Smithsonian 40, 290
Thayer's 288
- Harrier, Northern 92
- Hawk, Bicolored 112
Black-collared 102
Broad-winged 96
Common Black 100, 104
Cooper's 94
Crane 102, 104
Gray 94
Great Black 100, 104
Northern White 104, 291
Red-tailed 98
Roadside 94
Sharp-shinned 94
Short-tailed 96, 104
Swainson's 98
White 104
White-tailed 98
Zone-tailed 96
- Hawk-Eagle, Black 104, 108
Black-and-white 104, 108
Ornate 104, 108
- Hermit, Long-billed 162
Stripe-throated 162
- Heron, Agami 70
Bare-throated Tiger 72
Black-crowned Night 68
Boat-billed 68, 291
- Great Blue 66
Great White 64, 291
Green 70
Little Blue 66
Tricolored 66
Yellow-crowned Night 68
- Honeycreeper, Green 272
Red-legged 272
Shining 272
- Hummingbird, Azure-crowned 168
Buff-bellied 170
Cinnamon 170
Ruby-throated 168
Rufous-tailed 170
Scaly-breasted 164
Stripe-tailed 166, 292
Violet-headed 288
- Ibis, Glossy 74
Scarlet 288
White 74
White-faced 74, 288
- Jabiru 76
- Jacamar, Rufous-tailed 152
- Jacana, Northern 82
- Jacobin, White-necked 164
- Jaeger, Parasitic 38
Pomarine 38
- Jay, Brown 160
Green 160, 292
Yucatan 160
- Kestrel, American 118
- Killdeer 52
- Kingbird, Cassin's 289
Couch's 212
Eastern 214
Gray 214
Middle American 212, 294
Tropical 212
Western 289
- Kingfisher, Amazon 148
American Pygmy 148
Belted 148
Green 148
Ringed 148
Tropical Ringed 148, 292
- Kinglet, Ruby-crowned 289
- Kiskadee, Great 212
- Kite, Double-toothed 104, 106
Gray-headed 104, 106
Hook-billed 104, 106
Mississippi 114
Plumbeous 104, 114

- Snail 102
Swallow-tailed 114
White-tailed 114
Kittiwake, Black-legged 288
Knot, Red 62

Lapwing, Cayenne 50, 291
Southern 50
Leaf-tosser, Middle American 184
Scaly-throated 184
Tawny-throated 184
Limpkin 74, 291

Macaw, Scarlet 142
Mallard 288
Manakin, Red-capped 192
White-collared 192
Mango, Green-breasted 164
Martin, Brown-banded 288
Brown-chested 288
Caribbean 289
Gray-breasted 174
Purple 174
Sand 178
Sinaloa 289
Meadowlark, Eastern 286
Merganser, Hooded 288
Red-breasted 288
Merlin 118
Mockingbird, Mayan 216, 293
Northern 289
Tropical 216
Moorhen, Common 82
Motmot, Blue-crowned 150
Keel-billed 150
Lesson's 150
Tody 150
Mourner, Northern 194
Rufous 194
Speckled 194
Thrushlike 194
Munia, Tricolored 254

Night-Heron, see Heron
Nighthawk, Common 126
Lesser 126
Short-tailed 126
Nightingale-Wren, see Wren
Nightjar, Yucatan 128
Noddy, Atlantic Black 288
Brown 46
Black 288
Common Brown 46

Oriole, Altamira 284
Baltimore 286
Black-cowled 282
Bullock's 289
Hooded 284
Orange 284
Orchard 286
Spot-breasted 284
Yellow-backed 282
Yellow-tailed 282
Oropendola, Chestnut-headed 280
Montezuma 280
Osprey 92, 291
Owl, Barn 122, 292
Black-and-white 120
Burrowing 288
Central American Pygmy 124
Crested 120
Ferruginous Pygmy 124, 291
Great Horned 122
Mesoamerican Screech 124, 291
Mottled 120
Northern Mottled 120, 292
Short-eared 288
Spectacled 120
Striped 122
Stygian 122
Vermiculated Screech 124
Ovenbird 246
Oystercatcher, American 48

Parakeet, Aztec 140, 292
Green 288
Olive-throated 140
Parrot, Brown-hooded 140
Mealy 138
Northern Mealy 138
Red-lored 138
White-crowned 140
White-fronted 140
Yellow-headed 138
Yellow-lored 140
Yellow-naped 288
Yucatan 140
Parula, Northern 238
Tropical 238
Pauraque 126
Pelican, American White 34
Brown 34
Peppershrike, Rufous-browed 226
Petrel, Band-rumped Storm 288
Wilson's Storm 288
Pewee, Eastern 204
Greater 206
Northern Tropical 204, 294

- Tropical 204
Western 204, 288
- Phalarope, Red-necked 288
Wilson's 58
- Phoebe, Black 206, 294
Eastern 289
- Pigeon, Feral 130
Pale-vented 132
Red-billed 132
Scaled 132
Short-billed 132
White-crowned 130
- Piha, Rufous 194
- Pintail, Northern 26
- Pipit, American 289
- Plover, American Golden 50
Black-bellied 50
Collared 52
Gray 50
Semipalmated 52
Snowy 288
Wilson's 52
- Poorwill, Yucatan 128
- Potoo, Great 124
Northern 124
- Puffbird, White-necked 150
White-whiskered 150
- Pygmy-Owl, see Owl
- Quail, Singing 84
Spotted Wood 84
- Quail-Dove, Ruddy 136
- Rail, Black 78
Clapper 80
Gray-necked Wood 80
Northern Black 78, 291
Spotted 80
Rufous-necked Wood 80
Russet-naped Wood 80
- Redhead 288
- Redstart, American 232
- Robin, American 289
- Ruff 288
- Sabrewing, Violet 166
Wedge-tailed 166, 292
- Saltator, Black-headed 268
Buff-throated 268
Cinnamon-bellied 268
Grayish 268
- Sanderling 58
- Sandpiper, Baird's 288
Buff-breasted 54
Least 60
- Upland 54
Pectoral 60
Semipalmated 60
Solitary 56
Spotted 58
Stilt 62
Upland 54
Western 60
White-rumped 60
- Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied 156
- Scaup, Greater 288
Lesser 28
- Schiffornis, Northern 194
- Screech-Owl, see Owl
- Seedeater, Black 270, 296
Blue 260, 296
Morelet's 270
Slate-colored 270
Variable 270
White-collared 270
- Seedfinch, Thick-billed 270
- Shearwater, Audubon's 288
Cory's 288
Great 288
Manx 288
- Shoveler, Northern 28
- Shrike-Tanager, Black-throated 276
- Shrike-Vireo, Green 226
- Siskin, Black-headed 254
- Skimmer, Black 46, 290
- Skua, Arctic 38
Great 288
Pomarine 38
- Snipe, Wilson's 58
- Solitaire, Slate-colored 220
- Sora 78
- Spadebill, Stub-tailed 196
- Sparrow, Botteri's 250
Chipping 250
Clay-colored 252
Grasshopper 250
Green-backed 248, 295
House 252
Lark 252
Lincoln's 252
Olive 248, 295
Orange-billed 248, 295
Prevost's Ground 289
Rusty 250
Savannah 252
Vesper 289
White-crowned 289
White-faced Ground 289
White-throated 289
- Spinetail, Rufous-breasted 184

- Spoonbill, Roseate 76
Starthroat, Long-billed 162
Stilt, Black-necked 48
Stork, Wood 76
Storm-Petrel, see Petrel
Sungrebe 30
Swallow, Bank 178
 Barn 178
 Cave 176, 293
 Cliff 176
 Mangrove 178
 Northern Rough-winged 176
 Ridgway's Rough-winged 176,
 293
 Southern Rough-winged 289
 Tree 178
 Violet-green 289
Swift, Black 288
 Chestnut-collared 172
 Chimney 174
 Lesser Swallow-tailed 172
 Richmond's 174, 293
 Vaux's 174
 White-chinned 172, 292
 White-collared 172

Tanager, Blue-gray 274, 296
 Crimson-collared 274
 Flame-colored 266
 Golden-hooded 274
 Gray-headed 276, 296
 Hepatic 264
 Passerini's 274
 Rose-throated 266
 Scarlet 264
 Scarlet-rumped 274
 Summer 264
 Western 266
 White-winged 266
 Yellow-winged 274
Teal, Blue-winged 28
 Cinnamon 28
 Green-winged 28
Tern, American Black 46, 290
 Arctic 288
 Black 46
 Bridled 46
 Caspian 42
 Common 44
 Forster's 44
 Gull-billed 42
 Least 44
 Roseate 44
 Royal 42
 Sandwich 42, 290

Sooty 46
Western Bridled 46
Thrush, Bicknell's 289
 Clay-colored 216
 Gray-cheeked 218
 Hermit 289
 Swainson's 218
 White-throated 216, 294
 Wood 218
Tiger-Heron, see Heron
Tinamou, Great 88
 Little 88
 Slaty-breasted 88
 Thicket 88
Tityra, Black-crowned 192
 Masked 192
Tody-Flycatcher, Common 200
 Slate-headed 200
Toucan, Keel-billed 152
Toucanet, Emerald 152
 Northern Emerald 152
Trogon, Black-headed 146
 Collared 146
 Gartered 146
 Northern Collared 146, 292
 Slaty-tailed 146
 Violaceous 146
Tropicbird, Catesby's 288
 Red-billed 288
 White-tailed 288
Turkey, Ocellated 86
Turnstone, Ruddy 58
Tyrannulet, Mistletoe 198, 293
 Northern Beardless 200
 Paltry 198
 Yellow-bellied 200

Veery 218
Violetear, Brown 166
Vireo, Bell's 289
 Black-whiskered 230
 Blue-headed 228
 Central American 228
 Eastern Warbling 289
 Gray-headed 228, 295
 Mangrove 228
 Mayan 228, 295
 Philadelphia 230
 Plumbeous 295
 Red-eyed 230
 Warbling 289
 White-eyed 228
 Yellow-green 230
 Yellow-throated 228
 Yucatan 230

- Vulture, Black 90
King 90
Lesser Yellow-headed 90
Northern Turkey 90, 291
Turkey 90
- Warbler, Audubon's 289
Bay-breasted 244
Blackburnian 242
Blackpoll 244
Black-and-white 240
Black-throated Blue 244
Black-throated Gray 289
Black-throated Green 240
Blue-winged 238
Canada 234
Cape May 242
Cerulean 244
Chestnut-sided 244
Connecticut 236, 289
Golden-cheeked 289
Golden-crowned 234
Golden-winged 238
Grace's 240
Hermit 240, 289
Hooded 234
Kentucky 236
MacGillivray's 236, 289
Magnolia 242
Mangrove 232
Mourning 236
Myrtle 240
Nashville 238
Orange-crowned 289
Palm 242
Prairie 242
Prothonotary 232
Rufous-capped 234
Stripe-crowned 234, 295
Swainson's 246
Tennessee 238
Townsend's 289
Virginia's 289
Wilson's 234
Worm-eating 246
Yellow 232
Yellow-rumped 240
Yellow-throated 240
- Waterthrush, Louisiana 246
Northern 246
- Waxwing, Cedar 220
- Whimbrel 54, 291
- Whip-poor-will, Eastern 128
- Whistling-Duck, see Duck
- Wigeon, American 26
- Willet, Eastern 56, 291
Western 56, 291
- Woodcreeper, Grayish 182, 293
Ivory-billed 180
Northern Barred 180
Northern Spotted 180, 293
Northern Wedge-billed 182, 293
Olivaceous 182
Ruddy 182
Spotted 180
Streak-headed 180
Strong-billed 180
Tawny-winged 182
Wedge-billed 182
- Woodnymph, Crowned 166
- Woodpecker, Acorn 158
Black-cheeked 154
Chestnut-colored 156
Golden-fronted 154, 292
Golden-olive 156
Ladder-backed 154
Lineated 158
Pale-billed 158
Red-vented 154
Smoky-brown 156
Yucatan 154
- Wood-Pewee, see Pewee
- Wood-Quail, see Quail
- Wood-Rail, see Rail
- Wood-Wren, see Wren
- Wren, Band-backed 220
Cabanis's 222
Carolina 222, 294
Grass 220, 294
House 220, 294
Mesoamerican 220, 294
Middle American Wood 224, 295
Nightingale 224
Northern Nightingale- 224
Plain 222, 294
Sedge 220
Spot-breasted 222
White-bellied 222, 294
White-breasted Wood 224
White-browed 222
- Xenops, Plain 182, 293
- Yellowlegs, Greater 56
Lesser 56
- Yellowthroat, Common 236
Gray-crowned 236
- Yellow-finch, Grassland 268